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# THE National Food SITUATION

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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## SUMMARY

Domestic food consumption in 1953 is likely to continue at about the same level as in the past several years. Some changes for individual foods are expected, such as larger supplies of beef and veal and less pork. With continued strong consumer demand, retail food prices probably will be fairly stable and average only slightly lower than last year.

Although it is much too early in the year to forecast output of crops or livestock products with any certainty, present indications favor another year of high output if weather conditions from now on are average. Necessary materials and equipment are plentiful; the labor supply, while tight, will not restrict production; numbers of livestock on farms are high; and feed supplies are large.

Stocks of some food commodities on hand on January 1 were quite large--meat, turkey, evaporated milk, non-fat dry milk solids, lard, and wheat--but a few were small--chicken, apples, and canned fruits and fruit juices. Imports, the other source of food supplies, probably will be about equal to those of 1952. However, sugar imports will be reduced under present quotas.

No significant change in military purchases of food from those of 1952 is currently indicated, but exports of food products probably will be down.

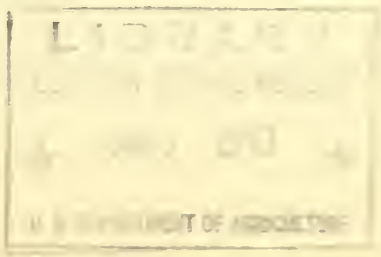

Table 1.- Volume of agricultural production for sale and for farm home consumption and civilian per capita food consumption, 1941, 1950, 1951 and estimates for 1952, with percentage comparisons 1/

(Index numbers, 1935-39 = 100)

| Item | 1941 | 1950 | 1951 | 1952 Prel. 2/ | 1952 as a percentage of 1951 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Food grains 3/ | 131 | 148 | 145 | 191 | 132 |
| Truck crops 4/ | 116 | 147 | 160 | 154 | 96 |
| Fruits and nuts 5/ | 113 | 126 | 127 | 121 | 95 |
| Vegetables, excluding truck crops 6/ | 100 | 113 | 88 | 90 | 102 |
| Sugar crops 7/ | 97 | 112 | 89 | 90 | 101 |
| Total food crops 8/ | 116 | 134 | 129 | 140 | 109 |
| Meat animals 9/ | 117 | 138 | 143 | 149 | 104 |
| Poultry 10/ | 120 | 179 | 191 | 200 | 105 |
| Dairy products 11/ | 110 | 113 | 112 | 112 | 100 |
| Total food livestock | 115 | 138 | 142 | 147 | 104 |
| Food production | 115 | 137 | 139 | 145 | 104 |
| Agricultural production, food and nonfood | 113 | 135 | 140 | 145 | 104 |
| Civilian per capita food consumption | 109 | 111 | 111 | 112 | 101 |

1/ Beginning with 1950, the data for most commodities have been revised to reflect changes in estimates of production which incorporated benchmark data from the 1950 Census of Agriculture. Revisions for the years 1945-49 are not yet complete. 2/ Production estimates for 1952 are based on the December crop report and estimated marketings and home consumption of livestock and livestock products. 3/ Includes wheat, rye, rice, and buckwheat. 4/ Includes truck crops for market (artichokes, asparagus, lima beans, snap beans, beets, cabbage, cantaloupe, carrots, cauliflower, celery, cucumbers, eggplant, lettuce, onions, peas, peppers, spinach, tomatoes and watermelons) and truck crops for processing (asparagus, lima beans, snap beans, beets, cabbage, sweet corn, cucumbers, peas, spinach, and tomatoes). 5/ Includes apples, peaches, pears, cherries, apricots, grapes, strawberries, cranberries, oranges, grapefruit, lemons, olives, dried California figs, fresh and dried plums, almonds, pecans, and walnuts. 6/ Includes dry edible beans, potatoes, and sweetpotatoes. 7/ Includes sugar beets, sugarcane for sugar, sugarcane sirup, sorgo sirup, maple sugar, and maple sirup. 8/ Includes peanuts in addition to the other crops. 9/ Includes cattle and calves, sheep and lambs, and hogs. 10/ Includes eggs, chickens, turkeys, and broilers. 11/ Includes wholesale milk, retail milk, butterfat, farm butter, and farm consumption of dairy products.

Table 2.- Total food utilization: Source and distribution, 1935-39 average, 1940-44 and 1950-52 1/

| Year | Total food utilization | Source of total food: Food production | Imports | Reduction in stocks | Increase in stocks | Distribution: Civilian | Military, including military civilian feeding | Department of Agriculture 2/: Net purchases | Deliveries | Reduction in stocks | Increase in stocks | Commercial exports and shipments 3/ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent |
| **Section a. Percentage of food utilization in each year** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1935-39 av. | 100.0 | 93.9 | 6.1 | | | 97.7 | | -.2 | | .2 | | 2.5 |
| 1940 | 100.0 | 95.1 | 5.5 | | .6 | 98.0 | | | | | | 2.0 |
| 1941 | 100.0 | 94.4 | 5.8 | | .2 | 93.8 | 2.0 | 2.4 | 1.9 | | .5 | 1.8 |
| 1942 | 100.0 | 94.2 | 3.7 | 2.1 | | 87.2 | 5.8 | 5.9 | 4.5 | | 1.4 | 1.1 |
| 1943 | 100.0 | 95.8 | 4.8 | | .6 | 81.4 | 9.6 | 8.1 | 7.1 | | 1.0 | .9 |
| 1944 | 100.0 | 94.0 | 5.0 | 1.0 | | 79.7 | 13.2 | 6.0 | 6.5 | .5 | | 1.1 |
| .... | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1950 | 100.0 | 95.0 | 5.3 | | .3 | 93.0 | 4/2.0 | 1.7 | 1.5 | | .2 | 3.3 |
| 1951 | 100.0 | 94.7 | 5.1 | .2 | | 89.9 | 4/3.9 | 1.0 | 1.9 | .7 | | 5.2 |
| 1952 Prel. | 100.0 | 95.1 | 5.1 | | .2 | 91.0 | 4/3.0 | .5 | .5 | --- | | 5.5 |
| **Section b. Percentage of 1935-39 food utilization** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1935-39 av. | 100.0 | 93.9 | 6.1 | | | 97.7 | | -.2 | | .2 | | 2.5 |
| 1940 | 109.6 | 104.2 | 6.0 | | .6 | 107.4 | | | | | | 2.2 |
| 1941 | 114.4 | 108.0 | 6.7 | | .3 | 107.3 | 2.3 | 2.7 | 2.2 | | .5 | 2.1 |
| 1942 | 125.6 | 118.3 | 4.7 | 2.6 | | 109.5 | 7.3 | 7.4 | 5.6 | | 1.8 | 1.4 |
| 1943 | 131.3 | 125.8 | 6.3 | | .8 | 106.9 | 12.7 | 10.6 | 9.3 | | 1.3 | 1.1 |
| 1944 | 139.9 | 131.5 | 7.0 | 1.4 | | 111.4 | 18.4 | 8.5 | 9.1 | .6 | | 1.6 |
| .... | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1950 | 135.4 | 128.6 | 7.2 | | .4 | 126.0 | 4/2.7 | 2.3 | 2.0 | | .3 | 4.4 |
| 1951 | 137.8 | 130.5 | 7.0 | .3 | | 123.8 | 4/5.4 | 1.4 | 2.6 | 1.2 | | 7.2 |
| 1952 Prel. | 143.1 | 136.2 | 7.2 | | .3 | 130.3 | 4/4.2 | .7 | .7 | --- | | 7.9 |

1/ Beginning with 1950, the data for most commodities have been revised to reflect changes in estimates of production which incorporated benchmark data for the 1950 Census of Agriculture. Revisions for the years 1945-49 are not yet complete. The upper section of the table divides the utilization in each year (1) according to the source of the food and (2) according to its distribution. Both the total utilization figures and the break-down are on an index number basis, that is, they represent quantities weighted by average farm prices in the period 1935-39. The utilization figure includes both domestically produced and imported foods. The lower section contains the same data expressed as a percentage of total food utilization in 1935-39 instead of total utilization each year. 2/ The quantities assigned to the Department of Agriculture are food for lend-lease, relief, and purchases for foreign governments, except meat transactions in the drought years. These quantities are measured (1) in terms of Department of Agriculture purchases from commercial channels and (2) in terms of shipments out of the country. When measured in terms of purchases, additions to Department of Agriculture stocks are included. When measured in terms of shipments, additions to stocks are shown separately. When Department of Agriculture shipments were smaller than the total quantities purchased, stocks were built up; and vice versa. 3/ For the war years, these data indicate the commercial portion of exports and shipments, which is total exports and shipments minus the exports assignable to the Department of Agriculture. 4/ Including procurement for relief feeding in areas occupied by our armed forces.

A high level of economic activity appears likely through 1953, and employment and consumer income probably will set new records. Accordingly, consumer demand for food is expected to continue strong. Retail food prices have shaded downward in recent months, but not to the extent of the decline in farm prices of food commodities. Marketing and processing charges have been rising. Because of the expected strength of consumer demand and little likelihood of significant changes in supplies of food, except seasonally, food prices may be fairly stable at or near the level of the past month.

Present prospects for supplies and demand for individual commodities indicate an increase over 1952 rates in the consumption of beef and veal, margarine, frozen fruit juices and vegetables, and possibly fresh vegetables if weather conditions are more normal this year. On the other hand, the per capita rates of consumption of pork, lamb and mutton, eggs, butter, canned fruit juices and perhaps sugar are expected to decline.

## RETAIL FOOD PRICES

### Review of 1952

The domestic demand for food was very strong in 1952. Retail food prices rose 3.5 percent from February to August, according to the index of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, reflecting seasonal changes in food supplies plus some reductions in output due to drouth in some areas. In the fall, retail food prices began to reflect the decline in farm prices. The supplies of some foods rose seasonally, but marketings of livestock increased more than usual. Accordingly, the BLS index of retail food prices fell 2 percent, from August to December, but averaged 2 percent higher for the year 1952 than for 1951.

Strong civilian demand for consumer goods and services in 1952 was maintained by the high rate of economic activity. Output, employment, and consumer income were at record levels. Consumer goods and services were generally in good supply and expenditures for these commodities were larger than in 1951, particularly for food and other nondurable items. The use of consumer credit expanded during the year, especially after controls were lifted in May 1952, and was an important factor supporting the high rate of expenditures. Expenditures per person for food took about as large a proportion of the disposable income received during the year as in 1951.

Table 3.- Apparent civilian per capita consumption of major food commodities, primary distribution weight, calendar years, 1935-39 average, 1950, 1951, 1952, and forecasts for 1953, with percentage comparisons 1/

| Commodity | Average 1935-39 | 1950 (Revised)* | 1951 (Revised)* | 1952 Prel. | Forecasts for 1953 | 1953 as a percentage of 1935-39 | 1953 as a percentage of 1952 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Pounds | Pounds | Pounds | Pounds | Pounds | Percent | Percent |
| Meats (carcass weight) - Total | 125.3 | 142.4 | 135.8 | 144.1 | 141 | 113 | 98 |
| Beef | 54.8 | 62.5 | 55.2 | 61.0 | 68 | 124 | 111 |
| Veal | 8.1 | 7.9 | 6.6 | 7.1 | 8.0 | 99 | 113 |
| Lamb and mutton | 6.7 | 3.9 | 3.4 | 4.1 | 3.8 | 57 | 93 |
| Pork (excluding lard) | 55.7 | 68.1 | 70.6 | 71.9 | 61 | 110 | 85 |
| Fish (edible weight) - Total | 11.1 | 11.3 | 11.5 | 11.4 | ( 2/ ) | --- | --- |
| Fresh and frozen | 5.3 | 6.2 | 6.4 | ( 2/ ) | ( 2/ ) | --- | --- |
| Canned 3/ | 4.8 | 4.2 | 4.2 | ( 2/ ) | ( 2/ ) | --- | --- |
| Cured | 1.0 | .9 | .9 | ( 2/ ) | ( 2/ ) | --- | --- |
| Poultry products | | | | | | | |
| Eggs-number | 296 | 383 | 396 | 409 | 387 | 131 | 95 |
| Chicken (dressed weight) | 17.8 | 26.2 | 28.5 | 30.0 | 29.6 | 166 | 99 |
| Turkey (dressed weight) | 2.6 | 4.8 | 5.2 | 5.4 | 5.4 | 208 | 100 |
| Dairy products | | | | | | | |
| Cheese | 5.5 | 7.6 | 7.2 | 7.7 | 7.7 | 140 | 100 |
| Condensed and evaporated milk | 16.5 | 19.9 | 18.0 | 17.4 | 17.4 | 105 | 100 |
| Fluid milk and cream (Unrevised) | 4/340 | 4/385 | 4/395 | 4/400 | 4/400 | 118 | 100 |
| Ice cream (product weight) | 9.4 | 16.0 | 15.9 | 16.3 | 16.3 | 173 | 100 |
| Fats and oils - Total, fat content 5/ | 44.4 | 45.1 | 41.6 | 43.9 | 44.0 | 99 | 100 |
| Butter, farm and factory (actual weight) | 16.6 | 10.6 | 9.5 | 8.8 | 8.6 | 52 | 98 |
| Margarine (actual weight) | 2.8 | 6.0 | 6.5 | 7.8 | 8.3 | 296 | 106 |
| Lard | 10.9 | 12.1 | 12.0 | 11.7 ) | | | |
| Shortening | 11.6 | 10.9 | 8.9 | 10.1 ) | 30.4 | 106 | 100 |
| Other edible fats and oils | 6.2 | 8.7 | 7.7 | 8.7 ) | | | |
| Fruits | | | | | | | |
| Fresh - Total | 137.5 | 107.9 | 116.1 | 112.0 | 111 | 81 | 99 |
| Citrus | 48.5 | 40.6 | 44.4 | 44.2 | 43 | 89 | 97 |
| Apples (commercial) | 30.2 | 22.9 | 25.4 | 21.5 ) | 68 | 76 | 100 |
| Other (excluding melons) | 58.8 | 44.4 | 46.3 | 46.3 ) | | | |
| Processed: | | | | | | | |
| Canned fruit | 14.8 | 20.9 | 18.6 | 20.1 | ( 2/ ) | --- | --- |
| Canned juices | 3.8 | 13.7 | 14.6 | 13.4 | ( 2/ ) | --- | --- |
| Frozen (including juices) | .8 | 4.2 | 4.7 | 6.4 | ( 2/ ) | --- | --- |
| Dried | 5.7 | 4.3 | 4.4 | 4.5 | ( 2/ ) | --- | --- |
| Vegetables | | | | | | | |
| Fresh (Unrevised series) | 4/235 | 4/252 | 4/254 | 4/251 | ( 2/ ) | --- | --- |
| Canned | 29.6 | 41.5 | 41.2 | 41.6 | ( 2/ ) | --- | --- |
| Frozen | 6/ .4 | 3.3 | 4.1 | 4.4 | ( 2/ ) | --- | --- |
| Potatoes | 130 | 103 | 103 | 101 | ( 2/ ) | --- | --- |
| Sweetpotatoes | 21.3 | 12.3 | 7.1 | 7.2 | ( 2/ ) | --- | --- |
| Dry edible beans | 8.7 | 8.5 | 8.1 | 8.5 | ( 2/ ) | --- | --- |
| Dry field peas | .6 | .7 | .7 | .7 | ( 2/ ) | --- | --- |
| Sugar, refined | 96.2 | 94.7 | 96.1 | 95.9 | 7/92-95 | 97 | 97 |
| Grains | | | | | | | |
| Corn products: | | | | | | | |
| Corn meal | 22.8 | 12.7 | 12.6 | 12.3 | 12.2 | 54 | 99 |
| Corn sirup | 7.6 | 9.0 | 8.9 | 8.6 | 8.6 | 113 | 100 |
| Corn starch | 1.3 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 138 | 100 |
| Corn sugar | 2.7 | 4.5 | 4.0 | 3.9 | 4.0 | 148 | 103 |
| Breakfast cereals | 1.6 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 94 | 100 |
| Hominy | 1.4 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 193 | 100 |
| Oatmeal | 3.8 | 2.9 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 79 | 100 |
| Barley food products 8/ | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 93 | 100 |
| Wheat: | | | | | | | |
| Flour 9/ | 157 | 133 | 132 | 130 | 130 | 83 | 100 |
| Breakfast cereals | 3.7 | 3.3 | 3.3 | 3.3 | 3.3 | 89 | 100 |
| Rye flour | 2.2 | 1.4 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 68 | 100 |
| Rice, milled | 5.7 | 5.0 | 5.7 | 5.2 | 5.2 | 91 | 100 |
| Beverages | | | | | | | |
| Coffee 10/ | 13.9 | 16.0 | 16.3 | 16.5 | 16.5 | 119 | 100 |
| Tea | .66 | .59 | .64 | .64 | .64 | 97 | 100 |
| Cocoa beans | 4.3 | 4.3 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 93 | 100 |
| Peanuts (shelled) | 4.3 | 4.4 | 4.5 | 4.5 | ( 2/ ) | --- | --- |

Population estimates used to obtain per capita consumption figures are official Census estimates of total population adjusted for underenumeration and for military personal not eating out of civilian supplies.

1/ Quantity in pounds except for eggs which are stated in number. Data on calendar year basis except for dried fruits which are on a pack year basis; fresh citrus fruits, dry field peas and peanuts on a crop year basis; rice on August 1 year; and canned fruit and vegetables on pack year basis in 1935-39. All years begin in year indicated except for fresh citrus, which begins in October of the previous year, and rice, which begins in August of previous year. 2/ Not available. 3/ Excludes products containing small quantities of fish such as clam chowder, etc. 4/ Unrevised for results of 1950 Census of Agriculture and for population revision. 5/ Computed from unrounded data. 6/ Average 1937-39. Data prior to 1937 are not available. 7/ Based on the U. S. domestic requirements of 7,800 thousand tons (raw value) as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture. 8/ All barley food products in terms of malt equivalent. 9/ Includes white, whole wheat, and semolina flour. 10/ Green bean basis.

*Except where otherwise noted data are revised to incorporate changes resulting from the 1950 Census of Agriculture and utilize a revised population series which is adjusted for underenumeration of all age groups. The population series previously used was adjusted for underenumeration of children under 5.

Military purchases and food exports in 1952 were down substantially from those of 1951. This offset some of the pressure of consumer demand on the general level of food prices.

Prospects for 1953

Current indications point to continued strong civilian demand for food in 1953. With large stocks carried over from last year and food production this year likely to be as large as last if weather and other growing conditions are at least normal, food supplies in 1953 will be substantially the same as in 1952. Prices received by farmers in January for food products were about 9 percent lower than a year earlier. However, the total charges for processing, transporting, and distributing farm food products have risen. Preliminary data indicate that retail food prices in January of 1953 were down only about 3 percent from the corresponding month of 1952. The average level of retail food prices in 1953 is expected to be only slightly below that of 1952. Seasonal changes in supplies of individual foods will cause some variation in the over-all index of food prices during the year, but large supplies of alternative foods and the strength of consumer demand are expected to keep the level fairly stable, probably near that of the past month.

General economic activity is expected to continue at a high rate in 1953, thus sustaining a high level of consumer income. Indications at the beginning of the year pointed to the maintenance of the strong demand for goods and services. Supplies of goods and services for civilians are expected to be large in 1953 unless the international situation should darken.

Non-civilian takings of food may total somewhat less than in 1952. Military procurement is likely to be much the same as last year. Exports from the 1952 crops are currently below those of early last year. World production of food in 1952-53 was a new record high and the need for food from the United States is less pressing than in recent years.

## NUTRITIONAL REVIEW 1/

The nutritional level of the food supply forecast for 1953 compares favorably with levels maintained in recent years.

Calories, fat, and thiamine will be slightly lower than in 1952 chiefly because of an expected decrease in pork. A slight decrease indicated in the available supply of sugar also contributes to the lower calorie estimates for 1953.

1/ Prepared by the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics.

However, the anticipated decrease in the above nutrients is not significant when comparisons are made with earlier years. With the exception of carboyhdrate, all of the nutrients available for consumption in 1952 were as high as or higher than in 1951. In fact, the trend since 1950 has been slightly upward for protein, calcium, riboflavin, niacin, and ascorbic acid.

Table 4.- Nutrients available for civilian consumption per capita per day, calendar years, 1950, 1951, 1952 and forecasts for 1953, with percentage comparisons 1/

(Revised)*

| Nutrients | Units | 1950 | 1951 | 1952 Prel. | Forecasts for 1953 | 1953 as a percentage of 1952 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Food energy | Cal. | 3,240 | 3,200 | 3,250 | 3,200 | 98 |
| Protein | Grams | 94 | 94 | 95 | 95 | 100 |
| Fat | Grams | 145 | 140 | 146 | 140 | 96 |
| Carbohydrate | Grams | 393 | 400 | 394 | 393 | 100 |
| Calcium | Grams | 1.06 | 1.07 | 1.08 | 1.09 | 101 |
| Iron | Mg. | 16.5 | 16.2 | 16.3 | 16.5 | 101 |
| Vitamin A value | I.U. | 8,500 | 8,100 | 8,300 | 8,400 | 101 |
| Thiamine | Mg. | 1.90 | 1.92 | 1.93 | 1.88 | 97 |
| Riboflavin | Mg. | 2.33 | 2.36 | 2.40 | 2.41 | 100 |
| Niacin | Mg. | 18.7 | 18.5 | 18.8 | 18.8 | 100 |
| Ascorbic acid | Mg. | 119 | 121 | 121 | 122 | 101 |

1/ Data computed by the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics on the basis of estimates of apparent civilian consumption (retail basis), including estimates of consumption from urban gardens, supplied by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. No deductions have been made in the nutrient estimates for the loss or waste in the home or for the destruction or loss of nutrients during the preparation of food. Deductions have been made for inedible refuse. The data for 1950-52 for iron, thiamine, riboflavin, and niacin include the amounts of these nutrients added to prepared cereals, bread and white flour.

* Revised for changes in population and to incorporate changes in consumption reported in table 3.

COMMODITY REVIEWS

## Meat

### Review of 1952

During 1952 the supply of meat available for consumption increased significantly over 1951, particularly in the latter part of the year. Production of all meats totaled about 23 billion pounds, 5 percent more than in 1951 and the largest since 1947. The output of each kind of meat was above the corresponding 1951 total, except pork which was approximately the same. Apparent civilian consumption of meat per person was 144 pounds or approximately 8 pounds more than in the preceding year and a pound above the 1948-50 average annual rate. Retail prices of meats for the year as a whole averaged slightly lower than for 1951.

Consumption of beef in 1952 totaled 61 pounds per capita, 10 percent more than in the preceding year. Veal consumption rose to 7 pounds, up about 8 percent from the 1951 rate. Supplies of these 2 types of meats in 1952 in total were 8 percent higher than a year earlier. Most of the increase occurred in the fall and early winter months. It was mainly the result of the 4 year build up of cattle numbers, but was partly due to drought conditions in the Great Plains region which caused many producers to market more cattle than they would have done had forage been more plentiful.

Pork consumption, at 72 pounds per person, was slightly higher than the 1951 rate. Output of pork was the third highest on record. Commercial hog slaughter from August to December was only 3 percent smaller than a year earlier, even though 9 percent fewer pigs were saved last spring than in spring 1951. Thus a larger part of the spring pig crop was marketed before Christmas in 1952 than a year earlier. This apparently resulted from earlier farrowings and from the experience of farmers who held their hogs over from 1951 for marketing during the first 2 months of 1952 and sustained losses due to a decline in hog prices.

Civilians had 4.1 pounds of lamb and mutton per person, 20 percent more than in 1951. Production of lamb and mutton was at a high rate in 1952, especially from August to December, and was the largest since 1948. The increase over 1951 occurred because fewer lambs in 1952 were held for grain feeding or grazing on winter wheat pasture or for building up of sheep flocks.

Imports of meat in 1952 were smaller than a year earlier. Most of the decline resulted from the embargo on meat from Canada (which was imposed in February because of the outbreak of hoof-and-mouth disease in that country) together with smaller receipts from Argentina.

Military takings of meat were considerably smaller than in 1951, when procurement was stepped up in order to accumulate reserves of storable meats. Thus, the quantity of meat available to civilians in 1952 increased a little more than production.

Price ceilings were continued on all meats at the retail level throughout 1952. However, at year end only beef prices remained under specific dollars-and-cents ceilings. By October and November retail ceiling prices on veal, lamb and mutton, and pork were determined solely as percentage mark-ups on actual wholesale prices.

Prospects for 1953

Civilian consumption of meat per person is expected to be slightly smaller this year than last, with increases in beef and veal consumption more than offset by probable declines in pork and lamb and mutton. Meat production may be about as large as in 1952, unless weather or other factors result in a different marketing pattern for livestock than is anticipated, but this output will have to supply a slightly larger civilian population.

Total production of beef and veal currently is considerably larger than a year earlier and may total around 15 percent larger than in 1952. However, the actual level of output in 1953 will be strongly influenced by grazing and feed conditions during the year. It will increase more in the event of poor conditions, less with good conditions.

The further rise in cattle slaughter expected in 1953 will continue the uptrend that began last summer. Cattle numbers on farms rose from 77 million on January 1, 1949 to 88 million on January 1, 1952. Cattle slaughter in 1952 was far short of being large enough to arrest the expansion and on January 1, 1953 the number of cattle on farms totaled a record of almost 94 million. This quantity promises a considerably higher rate of slaughter in 1953 and for several subsequent years.

Pork production may be down 12 to 15 percent from the 1952 total. Output in the early part of 1953 has been only slightly less than in the same part of last year. However, this difference has recently widened, and it will continue fairly wide as the year progresses. This summer or early fall the rate of production will likely be much smaller than a year earlier. The decline in pork output will result from both the 11 percent smaller 1952 fall pig crop than a year earlier and an indicated 15 percent smaller 1953 spring pig crop than in 1952. After hog production had risen rapidly for several years, comparatively low prices in both 1951 and 1952 brought a cut-back in output.

Current indications point to a production of about 5 to 10 percent less lamb and mutton this year than last. Output early this year was larger than in the comparable part of last year. It is expected to drop to moderately below the 1952 production rate.

Imports of fresh, frozen, and canned meats are expected to approximate the 1952 total, but amount to no more than 2 percent of total supply. Imports from Canada are scheduled to be resumed on March 1 if no new outbreaks of hoof-and-mouth disease appear before that date. Receipts from other countries may not be as large as last year, chiefly because prices in the United States may not be as attractive to exporters as they were in 1952.

Military withdrawals of meat from domestic supplies in 1953 may increase moderately from those of last year.

Retail prices of meat in 1953 are expected to average somewhat lower than in 1952, with beef, veal and lamb down but pork perhaps a little higher. In early 1953 retail prices of beef and veal continued a decline that had begun several months earlier, with apparently greater declines for medium grades of beef than for the higher grade because of larger supplies of the former. However, supplies of the better grades of beef are now increasing seasonally and retail prices have been subject to downward pressures. Retail prices of pork probably will average somewhat higher this year than last because of smaller supplies. More stability later in the year could follow the general adjustment now taking place in meat prices, provided extremely large slaughter of cattle is not forced by dry weather. The expected smaller supply of pork is the chief factor that may lend a greater stability to the general level of prices.

All price controls on meats and livestock were ended February 6. Federal grading of meat is no longer required. It is still available to distributors on a voluntary basis.

## Fishery Products 1/

### Review of 1952

U. S. civilian per capita consumption of fishery products in 1952 was slightly smaller than in the previous year. Some declines in consumption were indicated for many of the important fresh and processed products. The BLS index of retail prices of all edible fishery products in urban areas for the year as a whole averaged slightly lower than for 1951, after declining in every month beginning with March.

The commercial catch of edible fish and shellfish in 1952 was somewhat smaller in total than a year earlier. Most of the decline resulted from the almost complete failure of the sardine (pilchard) operations in California. However, the impact of this reduction on domestic supplies was not as large as the production decline would indicate since an important part of the California sardines, all of which is marketed in the canned form for food use, is normally exported.

Commercial freezings of edible fishery products in the continental United States total 268 million pounds, about 5 percent smaller than in 1951. Cold-storage holdings of fish and shellfish at the end of 1952 amounted to 180 million pounds, almost 16 percent larger than a year earlier. An important part of the cold-storage stocks was imported frozen groundfish and other fillets.

The total production of canned fish and shellfish was somewhat smaller than in 1951. The decline in the total output resulted mainly from the significant reduction in the pack of California sardines. However, to a large extent this was offset by a near-record volume of tuna packed in the

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1/ Prepared in cooperation with the Fish and Wildlife Service of the U. S. Department of the Interior.

continental United States, and a sharp increase over 1951 in the output of canned anchovies, mackerel, and Maine sardines. The pack of salmon in 1952 was somewhat smaller than that of a year earlier. To some extend the decline in output of salmon was offset by increased imports from Canada and by a reduction both in purchases of the U. S. military agencies and in exports. Nevertheless, civilians had less canned salmon per person than in 1951, a continuation of the downward consumption trend of recent years.

Imports of edible fishery products were large in 1952. The quantity of frozen groundfish (cod, haddock, hake, pollock, and cusk) and ocean perch fillets received from abroad is estimated to have reached a record high of almost 108 million pounds, 24 percent larger than corresponding imports in 1951. Canned tuna fish and bonito imports in 1952 totaled 37 million pounds, approximately 60 percent larger than a year earlier. Most of the increase resulted from the more than doubling of the volume of canned tuna received from Japan. Exports of edible fishery products from the United States, on the other hand, were smaller in volume than in 1951. The outmovement of canned salmon, mackerel, and sardines--our principal export commodities among the fishery products--amounted to about 43 million pounds, down almost 70 percent from the 1951 total. The export decline resulted largely from the reduction in our catch and pack of California sardines.

Military purchases of fresh and frozen fishery products in 1952 amounted to 32 million pounds, approximately equal to the preceding year's total. On the other hand, withdrawals from domestic market supplies of the major types of canned fish (i.e., salmon, sardines and tuna) were 10 million pounds, about 38 percent smaller than the quantity taken by the military in 1951.

Prospects for 1953

Current indications point to the liklihood of a somewhat weaker civilian demand for fishery products in 1953 than last year. Per capita consumption of fresh and processed fish and shellfish may be about as large as in 1952, but retail prices this year may not average quite as high as last year. Fishery products are expected to encounter more competition from meats and poultry products for the consumers' food dollar than occurred in 1952.

Domestic supplies are sufficiently large to maintain civilian consumption of fishery products per capita during the next few months at about the same rate as in the comparable part of 1952. Cold-storage stocks of frozen fishery products on January 1, 1953 were record large for that time of the year, and probably will be more than adequate to meet domestic needs until the 1953 commercial fishing operations begin to expand seasonally after mid-spring. In total, canned fish stocks are estimated to be about as large as in early 1952 and sufficient for civilian needs until the new packs start moving to market after mid-year. Through most of 1953, less canned California sardines (pilchards) will be available for the domestic market and for export because of the unusually small volume produced last year. However, supplies of many of the other popular types of canned fishery products will be about as large or larger than in the comparable part of 1952.

The international trade of the United States in fishery products in 1953 is expected to follow the same pattern as last year. Imports of these commodities are expected to be larger than last year, although the increase may not be as large as that which occurred between 1951 and 1952. Some further decline in exports of fishery products is anticipated to result from the still smaller exportable supplies of those canned fishery products which are popular in our foreign markets.

## Poultry and Eggs

### Review of 1952

Supplies of eggs and poultry meat in the consumer markets in 1952 were larger than in preceding years, and civilian per capita consumption of these products reached record levels. BLS retail prices of eggs in urban areas averaged almost 9 percent lower than for 1951, while those of chicken were about the same.

Apparent civilian consumption of eggs totaled 409 per person, slightly more than in 1951 and the largest on record. The quantity of eggs distributed for current consumption remained at a high rate throughout most of 1952. The movement of shell eggs into commercial storage or for processing was about as large as in the preceding year. Egg production set a record despite the fact that abnormally hot weather held down production for several months in the middle of the year. The effect of this short-run output decline was to boost retail prices in the mid-summer and fall seasons above the relative levels of the rest of the year. Even so, retail prices during 1952 did not exceed a year earlier in any month.

Civilian consumption of chicken meat in 1952 was 30 pounds per person, 5 percent above the preceding year's rate and the second highest on record. Chicken production exceeded 1951 output, mainly because of the increase in the number of broilers raised. Commercial broiler production in 1952 was larger than a year earlier, but the increase was not as great as that which occurred from 1950 to 1951.

Commercial broilers provided about half the chicken meat supply in 1952; the remainder came from farm flocks. Among the latter, a larger proportion of layers were marketed than in 1951, which about offset the decline in marketings of young farm chickens. Cold-storage stocks of chickens at the end of 1952, totaled 123 million pounds, the smallest carryover since the end of 1948.

Both total turkey production and consumption per person were record large in 1952. The continued shift in market supplies from New York dressed to ready-to-eat turkeys was particularly apparent. Despite record consumer purchases, prices in the last few months of the year were lower than in the same part of 1951 and the Department purchased about 6 percent of the 1952 output, by weight, under a surplus removal program. The year closed with record large storage stocks of turkeys, mostly of the large-sized birds which are used mainly by restaurants and institutions.

Prospects for 1953

Current indications point to somewhat smaller supplies of eggs and about the same total supplies of turkey and chicken this year as last. However, supplies will be adequate to maintain civilian per capita consumption of these products at a high rate.

The prospective reduction in egg supplies from 1952 is expected to occur mainly in the spring and early summer. In that part of the year production exceeds current consumption and the remainder is stored for distribution later in the year. This decline in output is indicated by the 4 percent smaller number of potential layers on farms on January 1, 1953 than a year earlier and from the expectation that the springtime rate of lay per bird may not be substantially above that of 1952.

Demand for eggs for current consumption will be as strong as in the spring of 1952 and the demand for commercial processing and storage (excluding shell eggs) will be stronger. With production lower, prices to farmers and retail prices for eggs this spring probably will be higher than a year earlier. Based on past experience, this is expected to encourage farmers to raise more chickens for flock replacement than last year, and would result in a larger output of eggs at the end of 1953 than a year earlier.

Supplies of chicken meat in the first few months of this year will be somewhat larger than those in the same part of 1952. However, the demand for chicken meat may be affected by large supplies of better grades of beef, so retail prices might fall below those of last spring. After mid-spring, more broiler chicks may be produced than in the corresponding months of 1952, and more young farm chickens probably will be marketed this year than last.

Supplies of turkey for the first half of 1953 will exceed those of a year earlier, with the large stocks carried over from 1952 more than offsetting the expected reduction in output of small turkeys. Production of turkey meat for the year as a whole is likely to be below last years's record output.

## Dairy Products

Review of 1952

Civilian consumption of dairy products per person in 1952 was somewhat smaller on a fat-solids basis than a year earlier. Butter consumption was estimated at 8.8 pounds per capita, 7 percent below that of 1951 and a record low rate. The BLS index of urban retail prices of dairy products averaged 215 (1935-39=100), about 4 percent greater than the 1951 average and the highest of record.

A striking reversal from normal of market conditions for dairy products in the United States occurred in 1952. The year began with very small storage stocks of manufactured dairy products and contraseasonal rises in prices, particularly for butter which reached a near-record high in February. The comparatively short supply condition of early 1952

resulted from developments in late 1951 when prices of manufactured dairy products rose more slowly and the out-of-storage movement of these commodities was more rapid than seasonal. The situation was not overcome until the spring when production of milk had increased sufficiently to supply current needs for the production of manufactured dairy products as well as fluid milk requirements.

In many areas of the country supplies of milk for consumption in fluid form continued relatively tight through the summer due to drought in those milksheds. By December, however, the situation reversed and milk production reached an annual rate of 123 billion pounds, in contrast to the rate of 110 billion pounds in the preceding July. Consequently, in late fall many fluid-milk market areas had surplus supplies - the first time this had happened in the fall season in a number of years - and large quantities of milk were diverted to the production of manufactured dairy products. The high rate of milk production resulted in a much larger output of butter, cheese and other manufactured dairy products in the closing weeks of 1952 than a year earlier. Total production of milk for the year as a whole was about the same as that of 1951.

Mild weather was a significant factor in bringing about the large increase in annual rate of milk production during the late fall. The weather permitted maximum use both of late fall pastures and of the after-harvest roughages fed to dairy cattle. Also important was the fact that farmers fed relatively large quantities of concentrated feed mixtures to cows and the quality of hay apparently was better than in other recent years.

Despite the unusual distribution pattern, civilian per capita consumption of the major dairy products (total, fat solids basis) for the year as a whole was about the same as in 1951. Consumption of butter was 7 percent smaller than in 1951 and evaporated milk was down somewhat. On the other hand, increases were reported for cheese (which reached the 1950 record high of 7.7 pounds per person), ice cream and for both dry whole milk and nonfat dry milk solids. Per capita consumption of fluid milk and cream in 1952 apparently was about equal to a year earlier.

Import controls limited the quantity of certain dairy products which entered the United States. Although domestic wholesale prices for dairy products declined to support levels during late 1952, they were still above comparable prices in other countries of the world. Accordingly, there was strong inducement to ship dairy products to the United States. Import quotas were extended in 1952. An amendment to Section 104 of the Defense Production Act, issued on December 30, 1952, restricts imports of dry whole milk, dry cream, and dry buttermilk; liberalizes controls on some types of cheese, and removes controls from casein - - which is used in the production of nonfood commodities.

Prospects for 1953

Supply prospects for 1953 indicate that civilians will have about as much dairy products (total, in terms of fat solids) per person this year as last. Consumption of the individual major products is expected to be close to the 1952 rates.

Total milk production on farms this year may be somewhat higher than the 115.1 billion pounds of last year. Currently, the annual rate of milk production is abnormally high but is not expected to continue so beyond the first quarter. From about mid-spring to early fall of 1953, output probably will be a little higher than a year earlier since cow numbers have increased slightly in the past year.

The output of most manufactured dairy products is running substantially above a year earlier. With supplies increasing and the domestic market demand relatively stable at present prices, the Department of Agriculture has found it necessary to purchase 65 million pounds of butter, 21 million pounds of cheddar cheese, and 60 million pounds of nonfat dry milk solids between January 1 and February 20 in order to maintain the prices of milk and butterfat at support levels. Current indications are that the Department's price-support purchases of these commodities probably will continue near present levels through the first quarter of the year. No decision has been announced on level of supports beyond March 31.

At present, prospects are that supplies of several major dairy products in spring and early summer will exceed demand at prices near present levels. In part, this situation is expected to occur because operators of private firms may be reluctant to store dairy products, owing to the generally unfavorable outcome of their 1952-53 storage operations. Stocks of manufactured dairy products are normally built up during the high milk production season, and drawn down for distribution in the low production season in the fall and following winter.

Commercial exports of dairy products probably will be no larger this year than last, while the volume of imports in 1953 is very uncertain.

## Fats and Oils

### Review of 1952

Supplies of edible fats and oils were at a record level in 1952. Civilian use, both in total and per capita, was greater than the year before but exports were down sharply. Domestic stocks accumulated, and at the end of 1952 totaled 1,380 million pounds, 32 percent more than the year before and the greatest of record.

Output of food fats and oils was at a record high in 1952, 8 percent above that of 1951. Most of the increase was in shortening, margarine and cooking and salad oils, although lard also increased slightly. Butter production was about the same as in 1951, halting the downtrend which had begun in 1949. In recent years, production of soybeans and cottonseed -- the major sources of edible vegetable oils -- has been large. The 1951 and 1952 cottonseed crops were over 6.1 million tons compared with the prewar (1937-41) average of 5.5 million tons. Production of soybeans in the last three years has been nearly four times the prewar average.

The movement of food fats into civilian channels in 1952 averaged about 44 pounds (fat content) per person. Although this rate is 2 pounds more than the year before and over a pound below that of 1950, it is probably closer to the level of actual consumption than the rates of the two preceding years. In 1950, after fighting started in Korea, stocks in unreported positions probably increased; this tended to overstate consumption for that year. The reverse took place in 1951 and consumption probably was understated.

Consumption of margarine, shortening, and other edible oils (mostly cooking and salad oils) each was up at least one pound per person in 1952 from the year before, while the direct use of lard and butter was down by less than a pound, respectively. Use of lard in shortening, however, has been increasing and in 1952 totaled 235 million pounds, 28 million more than a year earlier and double the 1947-49 average.

Exports and shipments of food fats and oils, including the oil equivalent of soybeans and peanuts exported for crushing, were down about 25 percent from the record 1951 level of 1,695 million pounds but still more than in 1950. Most of the decline in 1952 was in vegetable oils. Large quantities of soybean oil were shipped to Italy and Spain in 1951 because the small olive crops in these countries led to a sharp decline in the amount of olive oil available for their use. This was not repeated in 1952. Ordinarily these two countries take very little edible oil from the United States.

Retail prices of food fats except butter in 1952 were substantially less than the year before. This reflects a downward pressure exerted by large supplies and the fact that the 1951 average included rising prices in the early part of the year, which was influenced by the "scare buying" that began after hostilities started in Korea. Prices of shortening and salad dressing have remained stable since last spring, but lard prices fell to the lowest level since January 1942. The price of margarine changed very little from the beginning to the end of the year, as increased demand has offset any downward tendency in prices. An additional factor maintaining prices of products made out of edible vegetable oils is the Government support program for cottonseed. Although butter prices averaged higher in 1952 than the year before, the price in December 1952 was 7 percent below the comparable month a year earlier. In recent months, wholesale prices of grade A butter have been slightly below the support level (67.75 cents per pound); from January 1 to February 20 the Department of Agriculture purchased 65 million pounds under the support-price program.

## Prospects for 1953

Civilian consumption of food fats and oils per person in 1953 probably will continue at about the same rate as in 1952. From the large total supplies expected again this year, anticipated export needs will be readily met. Retail prices of edible fats and oils as a group are expected to advance somewhat from the present level, but for the year as a whole are expected to average about the same as for 1952.

Production of edible fats and oils in the crop year which began last October 1 and which will be marketed through most of 1953 is estimated at over 9 billion pounds, 2 percent less than the preceding year's record total. The indicated slight decline can be more than offset by withdrawals from carry-over stocks, which were substantially larger last October 1 than a year earlier. Lard output in the 1952-53 marketing year may be down about 10 percent from the preceding year's total because of the expected fewer number of hogs to be slaughtered. To some extent the decline in lard will be counter-balanced by increased production of the edible vegetable oils. The output of edible vegetable oils in 1952-53 may be a record.

Exports of edible fats and oils (including the oil equivalent of oilseeds) probably will be no larger than last year.

The apparent shift from consumption of butter to margarine is likely to continue, and margarine consumption per person this year may be about equal to that of butter for the first time. Civilian per capita disappearance of lard, shortening, and the other edible fats and oils is likely to average close to the comparable 1952 total.

## Fruit

### Review of 1952

Civilian consumption of fresh and processed fruit (fresh equivalent basis) was a little more than 200 pounds per person in 1952. Although the deciduous fruit crop was smaller than a year earlier, total consumption per capita was maintained at slightly above the 1951 rate by drawing on stocks of the processed fruits. Retail prices of important fresh fruits tended to be higher than in 1951, except during the summer when harvest was in full swing. On the other hand, retail prices of some processed fruits, especially of frozen concentrated orange juice, were lower in 1952.

Total production of fruit in 1952 was about 16.2 million tons (fresh weight), 6 percent smaller than in the preceding year. The deciduous fruit crops were down almost a tenth. Larger production of sweet cherries, pears and strawberries was more than offset by considerable reductions in the apple, sour cherry, prune and cranberry crops. The 1952-53 citrus crop, now being harvested, is estimated at 7.2 million tons, nearly as large as the preceding year's crop. The output of oranges is expected to about equal and that of lemons exceed the comparable 1951-52 crops. However, the production of grapefruit probably will be smaller. Total production of tree nuts in 1952 was about 189 thousand tons (in shell), 7 percent smaller than a year earlier.

Imports of fresh fruits in 1952 were about the same as in the preceding year. Banana receipts from abroad, which comprised nearly 93 percent of total imports, and the total receipts of canned fruits and fruit juices were each approximately equal to those in 1951, but those of dried fruits were slightly smaller. Increases in exports of fresh citrus more than offset declines in the other fruits, especially of apples.

Consumption of fresh fruits by civilians in 1952 amounted to about 112 pounds per person, approximately 4 percent smaller than in 1951. Much of the decline occurred in apples, the result of relatively small cold-storage supplies at the beginning of the year followed later in 1952 by a relatively small crop. Among the other deciduous fruits, civilians had considerably less strawberries and plums per person than in 1951, but moderately more peaches. Per capita consumption of fresh citrus fruits was about the same as in the preceding year.

Apparent civilian consumption of canned fruits was about 20 pounds per capita, 8 percent more than in 1951. Most of the increase in 1952 occurred in applesauce, peaches, pears, and fruit cocktail. Although the 1952 pack was approximately one-tenth smaller than the record reached in the preceding year, larger quantities of canned fruit than a year earlier were available to civilians as a result of the substantial reduction in military procurement and of the reduction of the large commercial stocks carried over from 1951.

Canned fruit juice disappearance in 1952 was 13.4 pounds per capita, approximately one pound smaller than a year earlier, with most of the decline in canned citrus juices. Even though the 1951-52 pack of canned citrus juices was less than three-fourths of the preceding year's output, consumption of these juices did not fall so much because carry-over stocks were reduced during the year. The decline in canned citrus juices was more than offset by a sharp increase in the consumption of the frozen citrus juices.

Civilian consumption of frozen fruits and fruit juices reached a new high of nearly 6.5 pounds per person in 1952, considerably above the 1951 rate. Output of frozen fruits and berries (excluding juices) was slightly smaller but carry-over stocks were reduced and per capita consumption reached 3 pounds, one-half pound above the 1951 rate. The production of frozen fruit juices, mostly orange juice concentrate, was record large in 1952. Per capita consumption of these juices reached a new high of almost 3.4 pounds, more than half again as large as in 1951. Total cold-storage stocks of frozen fruits and fruit juices on December 31, 1952 were about 8 percent smaller than a year earlier.

Dried fruit consumption in 1952 was about the same as the 4.4 pounds per capita in 1951. A sharp increase in the 1952-53 pack of raisins about offset a large decrease in prunes and small decreases in the other dried fruits. To help move a surplus of raisins into foreign markets, an export-payment program again is in operation. Through February 14, 1953 about 83,000 tons had been approved for export under the 1952-53 program.

## Prospects for 1953

Prospective supplies of most fresh and processed fruits during the first half of this year are somewhat smaller than the fairly large supplies in the same part of 1952. However, sufficient quantities are available to maintain civilian consumption of most items at a high rate per person until supplies from the 1953 harvest and the new packs start moving to market in volume after mid-year. Retail prices of fresh oranges during the first half of this year probably will average higher than in the same part of 1952, while those of most other fresh and processed fruits are likely to be about the same.

Somewhat less fresh fruit will be available to consumers through mid-1953 than a year earlier. Cold-storage stocks of apples at the beginning of this year were about 9 percent smaller than the below-average carry-over into 1952. Carry-over stocks of fresh pears, on the other hand, were 15 percent larger than on the preceding January 1. Supplies of lemons are at least as large as in the first half of 1952, but those of oranges and grapefruit are somewhat smaller. Although the 1952-53 orange crop is about as large as the 1951-52 crop, supplies remaining for marketing after the first of the present calendar year were somewhat smaller than a year earlier because of the large volume used for processing during late 1952. The reduced supply of grapefruit is a result of the smaller crop this year.

Supplies of fresh strawberries are not expected to be quite as large. Most of the annual strawberry crop comes from the spring-harvested acreage, which this year is almost one-tenth smaller than in 1952. However, the decline in output may not be as much as the acreage reductions indicate since the declines in the low-yielding Eastern states are partly offset by increased acreage in some of the Western states where yields per acre are high. Stocks of frozen strawberries are somewhat larger than a year earlier.

Packers' stocks of canned fruits at the close of 1952 were smaller in total than a year earlier, but supplies of most items appear adequate to meet domestic--civilian and military--and export needs until the 1953 packs become available next summer. Canned and frozen citrus juices which are now being produced in Florida, will be in sufficient supply to maintain civilian consumption at a high rate per person during 1953, particularly in the first half of the year. Except for strawberries and peaches, current cold-storage stocks of frozen fruits and berries are smaller than a year earlier. Dried fruit supplies during the first three quarters of the year will be about as large as a year earlier. More raisins will be available than in the comparable months of 1952, but there will be less prunes.

## Vegetables

### Review of 1952

Civilian consumption of fresh vegetables per person continued at about the same rate as in the preceding 3 years. Military takings in 1952, although slightly higher than in the preceding year, were a relatively small part of the total supplies distributed. Exports in 1952 were relatively minor, as in past years. Retail prices of fresh vegetables were somewhat higher than in 1951 as a result of the continued strong demand for these products.

Canned vegetable consumption per person in 1952 was at about the same rate as in the preceding 2 years. The pack was down somewhat from the record output in 1951, but military purchases were much smaller than a year earlier. Output was reduced in part because of smaller military needs than in 1951 when military inventories were being increased; also commercial stocks had been built up in that year. Among the major canned vegetables, the pack of corn was more than 25 percent larger than in 1951,

but this increase was more than offset by declines for snap beans (almost 14 percent), green peas (22 percent), and whole tomatoes (9 percent). Canned vegetable prices were relatively stable during the first half of the year, and strengthened after mid-year. For the year as a whole, retail prices averaged about the same as for 1951.

The trend in civilian consumption of frozen vegetables apparently continued upward for 1952, probably exceeding the record high rate of 4.1 pounds per capita in 1951. Available data indicate that production set a new record. Among the important frozen vegetables, increases over 1951 were reported for cut corn (27 percent), spring-season spinach (6 percent), asparagus (5percent), and green peas (5 percent). Military purchases of frozen vegetables totaled slightly larger than in 1951.

Potato consumption in 1952 was slightly lower than a year earlier. Although production was up about 8 percent from the relatively low output in 1951, potatoes were relatively scarce and high priced throughout much of the year. Most of the increase in production was in the late crop, about two-thirds of which was carried over for marketing in 1953. Sweetpotato production was about 2 percent smaller than in 1951, despite increased acreage, and was the smallest since 1881. Yields per acre in 1952 were reduced below average in most areas by dry weather during the summer and by earlier-than-usual frosts in some areas. Civilian consumption of sweetpotatoes was about equal to the record low of 7 pounds per person in 1951. Retail prices of both potatoes and sweetpotatoes in 1952 averaged about 50 percent above those of the preceding year, reaching new highs.

U. S. civilian disappearance of dry edible beans was approximately 8.5 pounds per person, somewhat larger than a year earlier. Although production was about the same as in 1951, consumption was maintained at a high rate and much larger exports led to reduced stocks during 1952. Military procurement of dry beans was smaller than in 1951.

Production of dry field peas in 1952 was about one-third lower than the preceding crop. However, stocks were sufficiently large for total supplies to cover domestic and export needs at the higher prices that generally prevailed during the year.

Prospects for 1953

Current expectations are that production and the rate of consumption of fresh vegetables will be at least as large as last year. Prospective commercial production of 18 truck crops for harvest during the winter (January-March) is currently indicated to be 7 percent larger than a year earlier. Most of the expected increase in tonnage will come from cabbage, carrots, and lettuce. On the other hand, the winter crops of tomatoes, lima beans, snap beans, celery, sweet corn, eggplant, escarole, broccoli, spinach, and shallots are not expected to be as large as those in 1952. Retail prices of these fresh vegetables in larger supply this winter are noticeably lower than a year earlier, bringing down the general level of prices for fresh produce.

Stocks of processed vegetables carried over into 1953 from last year's packs appear adequate to maintain civilian consumption of these commodities at a relatively high rate until this year's packs start moving to market in volume after mid-year. The carry-over from the 1952 packs is not expected to be at all burdensome. Prospects are for continued strong consumer demand. Military requirements for canned vegetables are not expected to exceed those of 1952 and may be less. Therefore, production of canned and frozen vegetables may be about as large as last year. Moderately larger acreages than last year are considered likely for beets, lima beans, snap beans, and cabbage for kraut, judging from current stocks and the relative size of the 1952 packs. For the year as a whole, retail prices of the processed vegetables are expected to average close to those of 1952.

Civilians are expected to consume about as many potatoes per person in 1953 as in each of the past 3 years, but significantly less than in years before 1948. Supplies during the first half of this year will be much larger and lower priced to consumers than a year earlier. Stocks carried over from the late 1952 crop were more than one-fifth greater this January 1 than those of the same date last year, and, with yields per acre in line with those of recent years, production from the indicated acreage planted to potatoes for winter and spring harvest will be much larger than those of 1952. Judging from farmers reported intentions as of January 1, the total quantity of potatoes produced after mid-year may be substantially larger than in the last half of 1952, if yields per acre are close to the average for the past few years.

Sweetpotato supplies will be about as small through mid-year as in January-June 1952, and retail prices through the current marketing year are expected to continue at least at last year's level. The Department of Agriculture late last year suggested a considerable increase in sweetpotato acreage in 1953. The response of farmers to this recommendation will depend on several factors, among which are the opportunities in alternative crops and the farm labor situation.

Military and export takings of potatoes and sweetpotatoes in 1953 will continue relatively small, according to present indications.

Supplies of dry edible beans and peas during the first half of 1953 will be somewhat smaller than a year earlier because of the smaller January 1 stocks this year than last. Prices are substantially higher than a year ago and will continue so at least until next summer. Accordingly, some increase in acreages planted for dry beans and dry peas would not be surprising.

## Food Grains

### Review of 1952

The domestic demand for food products made from grains was relatively stable in 1952. Rates of apparent civilian consumption of these commodities were about equal to those in 1951, except for rice and corn products, which were somewhat smaller. The BLS retail price of cereals and bakery products in 1952 averaged almost 3 percent higher than a year earlier.

The wheat harvest in 1952 totaled 1,291 million bushels, 32 percent above the small crop of a year earlier and the third largest of record. Total domestic utilization of wheat was slightly larger than in 1951, but exports were about 13 percent smaller. As a result, stocks of wheat at the end of 1952 were 1,103 million bushels, 29 percent above those of a year earlier. About 31 million bushels of wheat unfit for human consumption were imported from Canada during the year, 16 percent more than in 1951.

Civilian per capita consumption of wheat in food products in 1952 in wheat equivalent was about 185 pounds, almost 2.5 pounds less than in 1951. The retail prices of wheat flour and white bread were slightly higher than in 1951, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The decline from 1951 in wheat exports resulted principally from the improved world supply situation. In 1951 our exports were very large because supplies in many countries, particularly in India and Yugoslavia, were low due to weather and other damage to crops. Argentina, Australia and Canada, surplus producers, were unable to export usual quantities of food-quality wheat in that year because of poor crops.

Supplies of rye in 1952 were much smaller than a year earlier, but civilian per capita consumption of rye in food products, which is relatively small, was maintained at the 1951 rate. The 1952 rye crop totaled 15.9 million bushels, about 25 percent below the preceding crop and the smallest since 1870. Stocks of rye at the end of 1952 were only about 60 percent of those at the beginning of the year.

Substantially more rice was available for distribution during the 1951-52 marketing year than a year earlier because of the larger crop. The domestic demand was apparently somewhat weaker than in 1950-51, but export needs were considerably larger. Civilian consumption of rice in 1951-52 was 5.2 pounds per person, half a pound less than in 1950-51 but more than in any of the other post-World War II years. Retail prices of rice in large cities in 1951-52 averaged 17.5 cents per pound, about 2 percent lower than in the previous marketing year, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Rice exports in 1951-52 were record large. In addition to the normal demand from Cuba, a traditional market for U. S. rice, new and firm demands developed in the Pacific area, especially in Korea and Japan. This resulted from the lack of adequate supplies of rice in the traditional surplus rice producing areas in the Far East and because dollars were available in Japan, which enabled her to make large purchases of rice from the United States. Large quantities of rice were shipped to Korea under the civilian feeding program operated by U. S. military agencies.

Civilian consumption of corn in food products in 1952 was slightly smaller than a year earlier. This reflected the reduction from 1951 in the volume of corn sirup, sugar, and starch sold by manufacturers for domestic food use, and the continued decline in the quantity of corn used for food on farms where produced. Judging from the BLS retail and wholesale prices, prices paid by consumers for corn products in 1952 averaged a little higher than a year earlier.

The 1952 corn crop harvested as grain was 3,002 million bushels, 15 percent larger than the preceding crop and the second largest on record. The crop was unusually good in the Corn Belt which supplies most of the commercial corn going into food and industrial products. Exports were about equal to those in 1951 and total domestic utilization was slightly smaller. Stocks of corn at the end of 1952 were 9 percent larger than a year earlier.

The total supplies of barley and oats were both reduced from 1951 by smaller stocks at the beginning of the year and the smaller crops. Domestic supplies of oats in 1952 were supplemented by imports, almost entirely from Canada, of 68 million bushels, the largest since 1944. Civilian consumption of oats in food products, principally oatmeal, is estimated at 7 pounds per person, about the same as in recent years. Per capita consumption of malt, the principal barley food product, in 1952 was also equal to the rates of recent years, but below the high levels reached during World War II.

Prospects for 1953

Combined stocks of wheat, corn, and rice at the beginning of the year were much larger than a year earlier and sufficient to meet anticipated domestic and export needs until the new crops are harvested after mid-year. On the other hand, 1953 beginning stocks of barley, oats and rye were smaller than a year earlier, although still adequate for expected food needs. Civilian consumption of grain products during the remainder of the current marketing year probably will about equal that in the same part of 1952. Retail prices of most cereals and bakery products during the first half of 1953 are expected to average substantially the same as a year earlier, reflecting the continued high level of processing and marketing costs.

Stocks of wheat on January 1, 1953 reached a total of 1,103 million bushels, the second largest stocks on record for that date. Prospects this year for the winter wheat crop which ordinarily makes up about three-fourths of the crop, are relatively poor. Domestic demand for wheat probably will approximate that of 1952, but export demand is expected to be lower. Accordingly, the smaller wheat crop expected this year may be offset by reduced exports and probably a reduction in the carry-over next December 31, so domestic needs can be readily met without significantly affecting the prices of food products made from wheat.

Rye stocks on January 1 were 9.2 million bushels, more than 40 percent below a year earlier and almost as much below the 1947-51 average for that date. Even so, supplies are quite adequate to maintain food use of rye at current levels.

Rice supplies for the 1952-53 marketing year are of record size. Civilian consumption of rice is expected to be about the same per person as a year earlier. Export demand probably will continue very strong.

The movement out of the United States is being controlled by allocations and export regulations, which were initiated at the beginning of the current marketing year. The expected large export demand follows from the continued shortage of rice in other exporting countries of the world, the rise in prices in these surplus-rice-producing areas, the increase in the number of dollars held by some importing countries--particularly Japan--and the continuation of shipments by U. S. military agencies of rice to Korea for civilian feeding.

Stocks of corn at the beginning of 1952 totaled 2,576 million bushels, almost 9 percent larger than a year earlier. Civilian consumption per person in the coming months is expected to be about the same as a year earlier. Domestic nonfood utilization of corn, largely for livestock feed, is likely to be a little smaller than in the same part of last year, but exports may be a little larger. As a result, corn stocks on October 1 -- the beginning of the 1953-54 marketing year -- are expected to be substantially larger than on the same date in 1952.

Although less barley and oats will be available through June than a year earlier, civilian consumption of the food products of these grains is expected to be maintained at about the 1952 rate. Total carry-over stocks of each of these grains on July 1 are expected to be smaller than a year earlier.

## Sugar

### Review of 1952

The total quantity of sugar marketed domestically by primary distributors was approximately 8.1 million short tons (raw value), about 5 percent more than in 1951. Only a small net reduction in stocks took place compared with 1951, when major industrial users and households drew heavily on stocks they had built up in 1950. Civilian consumption of refined sugar in 1952, estimated at about 96 pounds per person, was approximately equal to that in the preceding year. Retail prices for the year as a whole averaged 10.3 cents per pound (in 5-pound units), slightly higher than in 1951. During 1952 the retail price of sugar declined from January to March, but increased in every subsequent month through October. In the last quarter of the year prices were relatively stable.

The marketing quota for the year was originally set at 7.7 million tons. To meet consumer demand, the quota was increased to 7.8 million tons on October 21 and to 7.9 million on November 25.

Domestic beet sugar production from the sugar beets harvested in 1952 is currently estimated at 1,532 thousand tons (raw value), about as large as in the preceding year. Indications are that cane sugar production will be about 557 thousand tons, almost one-third larger than the quantity of sugar produced from the 1951 crop. A large portion of the sugar produced from the 1952 sugar beet crop will be marketed in 1953.

Military procurement of sugar from domestic supplies was somewhat smaller in 1952 than in the preceding year. Sugar delivered for export by primary distributors totaled 29 thousand tons (raw value), considerably smaller than the 82 thousand tons delivered in 1951. In 1951 the export demand for sugar was very strong because U. S. prices were much lower than those in the world market, and it was necessary to restrict the export movement from this country during most of the year. This strong demand did not occur in 1952 because world supplies were especially large and prices of sugar in Cuba, the leading producing country for the world market, were relatively low.

Prospects for 1953

The sugar marketing quota for 1953, determined in accordance with the provisions of the Sugar Act of 1948, has been established at 7.8 million short tons (raw value). This is 100 thousand tons larger than the initial 1952 quota, which was subsequently increased by 200 thousand tons. With marketings of this size, civilian consumption of sugar per person in 1953 will be somewhat less than last year, unless stocks are reduced still further.

On December 5, 1952, in announcing the marketing quota for the present year, the Secretary of Agriculture stated, "Sugar prices were more stable this year than last and average prices were a little higher than in 1951. However, sugar prices have remained below the levels indicated as desirable by this Act. Recently sugar prices have declined, and raw sugar for delivery in 1953 is being sold at discounts under current prices. The quotas have been set 400,000 tons below estimated consumption in 1953. As sugar prices during the course of the year achieve a fair relationship with prices of other commodities, sugar quotas can be increased."

Table 5.- Production of major food commodities, calendar years, 1935-39 average, 1950, 1951, 1952 and forecasts for 1953, with percentage comparisons 1/

| Commodity | Unit | Average 1935-39 | 1950 | 1951 | 1952 Prel. | Forecasts for 1953 2/ | 1953 as a percentage of 1935-39 | 1953 as a percentage of 1952 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Meats (carcass weight) | | | | | | | | |
| Beef | Mil.lb. | 6,937 | 9,533 | 8,343 | 9,628 | 10,850 | 156 | 113 |
| Veal | do. | 1,038 | 1,230 | 1,061 | 1,170 | 1,300 | 125 | 111 |
| Lamb and mutton | do. | 870 | 597 | 522 | 648 | 600 | 69 | 93 |
| Pork (excluding lard) | do. | 7,337 | 10,714 | 11,483 | 11,589 | 10,000 | 136 | 86 |
| Total meats | do. | 16,182 | 22,079 | 21,909 | 23,035 | 22,750 | 141 | 99 |
| Fish (edible weight) | | | | | | | | |
| Fresh and frozen | do. | 615 | 750 | 770 | ( 3/) | ( 3/) | --- | --- |
| Canned 4/ | do. | 337 | 643 | 488 | ( 3/) | ( 3/) | --- | --- |
| Cured | do. | 74 | 63 | 63 | ( 3/) | ( 3/) | --- | --- |
| Total fish | do. | 1,026 | 1,456 | 1,321 | ( 3/) | ( 3/) | --- | --- |
| Poultry and eggs | | | | | | | | |
| Eggs | Mil.doz. | 3,335 | 5,314 | 5,441 | 5,615 | 5,500 | 165 | 98 |
| Chickens (dr. wt.) | Mil.lb. | 2,327 | 4,061 | 4,557 | 4,750 | 4,875 | 209 | 103 |
| Turkey (dr. wt.) | do. | 350 | 736 | 836 | 925 | 875 | 250 | 95 |
| Dairy products | | | | | | | | |
| Total milk 5/ | Bil.lb. | 106.4 | 117.6 | 115.7 | 115.9 | 118.2 | 111 | 102 |
| Cheese 6/ | Mil.lb. | 669 | 1,191 | 1,161 | 1,195 | 1,220 | 182 | 102 |
| Cond. and evap. milk | do. | 2,225 | 3,205 | 3,238 | 3,166 | 2,965 | 133 | 94 |
| Ice cream (product weight) | do. | 1,232 | 2,550 | 2,616 | 2,700 | 2,750 | 223 | 102 |
| Fats and oils | | | | | | | | |
| Butter, farm and factory (actual weight) | do. | 2,170 | 1,648 | 1,452 | 1,446 | 1,540 | 71 | 107 |
| Lard 7/ | do. | 1,630 | 2,631 | 2,864 | 2,900 | 2,500 | 153 | 86 |
| Margarine (fat content) | do. | 383 | 764 | 847 | 1,034 | ) | | |
| Shortening | do. | 1,529 | 1,710 | 1,403 | 1,611 | ) 4,600 | 191 | 100 |
| Other edible fats and oils 8/ | do. | 575 | 1,611 | 2,150 | 1,963 | ) | | |
| Total fats and oils 9/ | do. | 6,207 | 8,364 | 8,716 | 8,954 | 8,640 | 139 | 96 |
| Fruits | | | | | | | | |
| Fresh: | | | | | | | | |
| Citrus | do. | 6,875 | 6,756 | 7,634 | 7,816 | 7,600 | 111 | 97 |
| Apples (commercial) | do. | 4,365 | 3,394 | 3,538 | 3,350 | ) 8,100 | 89 | 104 |
| Other (excl. melons) | do. | 4,703 | 3,859 | 4,325 | 4,462 | ) | | |
| Processed: | | | | | | | | |
| Canned fruit | do. | 1,705 | 2,740 | 3,111 | 2,772 | ( 3/) | --- | --- |
| Canned fruit juices | do. | 333 | 2,085 | 2,424 | 1,874 | ( 3/) | --- | --- |
| Frozen (incl. juice) | do. | 106 | 785 | 802 | 935 | ( 3/) | --- | --- |
| Dried | do. | 1,118 | 743 | 949 | 950 | ( 3/) | --- | --- |

- Continued

Table 5.- Production of major food commodities, calendar years, 1935-39 average, 1950, 1951, 1952 and forecasts for 1953, with percentage comparisons 1/-Continued

| Commodity | Unit | Average 1935-39 | 1950 | 1951 | 1952 Prel. | Forecasts for 1953 2/ | 1953 as a percentage of 1935-39 | 1953 as a percentage of 1952 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Vegetables | | | | | | | | |
| Fresh 11/(Unrevised series) | Mil.lb. | 11/30,520 | 11/33,794 | 11/38,944 | 11/39,300 | ( 3/) | --- | --- |
| Canned | do. | 4,030 | 5,910 | 7,807 | 7,246 | ( 3/) | --- | --- |
| Frozen | do. | 12/ 78 | 527 | 779 | 800 | ( 3/) | --- | --- |
| Potatoes | Mil.bu. | 355 | 430 | 329 | 348 | ( 3/) | --- | --- |
| Sweetpotatoes | do. | 68 | 50 | 29 | 28 | ( 3/) | --- | --- |
| Dry edible beans 13/ | Mil.lb. | 1,360 | 1,513 | 1,538 | 1,559 | ( 3/) | --- | --- |
| Dry field peas 13/ | do. | 229 | 295 | 352 | 233 | ( 3/) | --- | --- |
| Canned baby foods | do. | 48 | 547 | 503 | 560 | ( 3/) | --- | --- |
| Sugar, raw basis | 1,000 sh.tons | 1,948 | 2,460 | 2,042 | 2,094 | 2,300 | 118 | 110 |
| Grains | | | | | | | | |
| Wheat | Mil.bu. | 759 | 1,019 | 981 | 1,291 | 925 | 122 | 72 |
| Rye | do. | 44.9 | 21.3 | 21.4 | 15.9 | ( 3/) | --- | --- |
| Rice, milled | Mil.lb. | 1,340 | 2,644 | 2,522 | 3,101 | 3,292 | 246 | 106 |
| Corn, grain only | Mil.bu. | 2,050 | 2,760 | 2,617 | 3,002 | ( 3/) | --- | --- |
| Oats | do. | 1,045 | 1,410 | 1,321 | 1,268 | ( 3/) | --- | --- |
| Barley | do. | 239 | 304 | 254 | 227 | ( 3/) | --- | --- |
| Peanuts, farmers' stock basis | Mil.lb. | 1,229 | 2,037 | 1,676 | 1,365 | ( 3/) | --- | --- |

1/ Calendar year basis except for fresh citrus fruit for which the season begins in the fall of the previous year; dried fruits which are on a pack-year basis; rice on a marketing year. 2/ Forecasts or preliminary indications based on trends in livestock numbers, current or prospective rates of output, average or probable acreages and yields, and such other data or advance estimates as are available. These forecasts are used only to indicate the general level of food supplies for domestic consumption for 1953, and are not official estimates of production. Revisions will of course be made from time to time throughout the year as official indications or estimates are issued through the Crop Reporting Service of the Department. 3/ Not available. 4/Excludes products containing small quantities of fish such as clam chowder, etc. 5/ These estimates include farm production of milk as reported by the Crop Reporting Board in "Farm Production, Disposition, and Income from Milk, 1950-51" (April 1952) and a tentative allowance for non-farm production of 2.0 billion pounds in 1935-39, 1.0 in 1950, 0.9 in 1951, 0.8 in 1952, and 0.7 billion pounds in 1953. 6/ Excludes full skim, cottage, pot, and bakers' cheese. 7/ Includes amount used in manufactured food and nonfood products. 8/ Represents fats used in cooking and salad oils, salad dressing, mayonnaise, bakery products and other minor uses such as fish canning. 9/ Fat content basis except for butter which in on an actual weight basis. 10/ Estimates of all vegetables and melons other than potatoes and sweetpotatoes include reported commercial production for fresh market shipments plus rough estimates of quantities produced in market gardens for fresh sale and farm gardens for home use. Excludes town garden production. 11/ Unrevised for results of the 1950 Census of Agriculture. 12/ Average 1937-39. Data prior to 1937 are not available. 13/Cleaned basis.

Table 6 .- Retail food prices and total consumer price index, United States, 1940-50 and 1951-52 by months

(Index numbers 1935-39=100)

| Year and month | Meats 1/ | Eggs | Dairy products 2/ | Fats and oils 3/ | Cereals and bakery products | Fruit and vegetables: Fresh | Fruit and vegetables: Canned | Fruit and vegetables: Dried | Sugar and sweets | Beverages | All foods | Consumer price index |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1940 | 96 | 94 | 101 | 82 | 97 | 97 | 92 | 101 | 97 | 92 | 97 | 100 |
| 1941 | 108 | 112 | 112 | 94 | 98 | 104 | 98 | 107 | 106 | 102 | 106 | 105 |
| 1942 | 126 | 136 | 125 | 120 | 105 | 133 | 122 | 136 | 126 | 122 | 124 | 117 |
| 1943 | 134 | 162 | 135 | 126 | 108 | 176 | 131 | 159 | 127 | 125 | 138 | 124 |
| 1944 | 130 | 153 | 134 | 123 | 108 | 177 | 130 | 166 | 126 | 124 | 136 | 126 |
| 1945 | 131 | 164 | 134 | 124 | 109 | 188 | 130 | 168 | 126 | 125 | 139 | 129 |
| 1946 | 161 | 169 | 165 | 152 | 125 | 191 | 141 | 190 | 144 | 140 | 160 | 140 |
| 1947 | 217 | 201 | 186 | 198 | 155 | 202 | 166 | 264 | 180 | 187 | 194 | 160 |
| 1948 | 246 | 209 | 205 | 196 | 171 | 212 | 158 | 247 | 174 | 205 | 210 | 172 |
| 1949 | 233 | 201 | 187 | 148 | 170 | 219 | 153 | 227 | 176 | 221 | 202 | 170 |
| 1950 | 244 | 174 | 185 | 144 | 173 | 206 | 146 | 228 | 180 | 312 | 204 | 172 |
| 1951 | 272 | 211 | 206 | 169 | 188 | 223 | 166 | 250 | 187 | 344 | 227 | 186 |
| Jan. | 264 | 192 | 203 | 172 | 185 | 220 | 161 | 253 | 186 | 341 | 222 | 182 |
| Feb. | 270 | 180 | 204 | 176 | 187 | 233 | 165 | 257 | 186 | 343 | 226 | 184 |
| Mar. | 272 | 195 | 205 | 177 | 188 | 221 | 167 | 257 | 186 | 343 | 226 | 184 |
| Apr. | 273 | 191 | 204 | 178 | 189 | 216 | 169 | 258 | 186 | 344 | 226 | 185 |
| May | 273 | 198 | 204 | 177 | 188 | 226 | 170 | 257 | 185 | 345 | 227 | 185 |
| June | 272 | 201 | 204 | 175 | 188 | 224 | 170 | 254 | 186 | 345 | 227 | 185 |
| July | 273 | 212 | 205 | 169 | 189 | 222 | 170 | 251 | 188 | 345 | 228 | 186 |
| Aug. | 275 | 226 | 206 | 163 | 189 | 209 | 166 | 248 | 188 | 345 | 227 | 186 |
| Sept. | 276 | 239 | 206 | 162 | 189 | 204 | 164 | 246 | 188 | 345 | 227 | 187 |
| Oct. | 277 | 243 | 208 | 161 | 189 | 214 | 163 | 241 | 187 | 346 | 229 | 187 |
| Nov. | 274 | 242 | 210 | 158 | 190 | 235 | 163 | 238 | 187 | 347 | 231 | 189 |
| Dec. | 270 | 217 | 213 | 158 | 190 | 255 | 163 | 239 | 186 | 347 | 232 | 189 |
| 1952 | 270 | 193 | 215 | 143 | 193 | 260 | 164 | 241 | 188 | 347 | 232 | 190 |
| Jan. | 272 | 184 | 216 | 155 | 191 | 263 | 165 | 239 | 186 | 347 | 232 | 189 |
| Feb. | 271 | 166 | 217 | 151 | 191 | 235 | 164 | 238 | 185 | 347 | 228 | 188 |
| Mar. | 268 | 161 | 216 | 146 | 191 | 248 | 164 | 236 | 184 | 347 | 228 | 188 |
| Apr. | 267 | 166 | 213 | 143 | 191 | 273 | 164 | 237 | 186 | 347 | 230 | 189 |
| May | 266 | 164 | 211 | 140 | 194 | 283 | 164 | 237 | 187 | 347 | 231 | 189 |
| June | 271 | 169 | 210 | 140 | 193 | 278 | 162 | 237 | 188 | 346 | 232 | 190 |
| July | 270 | 209 | 212 | 141 | 194 | 283 | 162 | 239 | 189 | 346 | 235 | 191 |
| Aug. | 277 | 217 | 214 | 141 | 194 | 265 | 163 | 241 | 190 | 347 | 236 | 191 |
| Sept. | 277 | 221 | 217 | 141 | 194 | 241 | 164 | 244 | 190 | 347 | 233 | 191 |
| Oct. | 272 | 231 | 218 | 141 | 194 | 240 | 165 | 245 | 191 | 346 | 232 | 191 |
| Nov. | 266 | 226 | 218 | 140 | 194 | 254 | 166 | 248 | 191 | 346 | 232 | 191 |
| Dec. | 262 | 202 | 217 | 140 | 194 | 254 | 166 | 249 | 190 | 347 | 230 | 191 |

Index numbers from Bureau of Labor Statistics and rounded to the nearest whole number by Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The consumer price index is adjusted for "new unit bias" in rents beginning 1940; in addition, beginning 1950 all series are adjusted for expanded commodity coverage and revisions in both commodity and population weights. Detailed description of the adjustments are published in the April 1951 issue of the Monthly Labor Review.

1/ Includes chicken and fish. 2/ Includes butter. 3/ Excludes butter.

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# THE National Food SITUATION

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NFS-64 BAE APR.-JUNE 1953

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, April 22, 1953

## SUMMARY

Significant features in the food situation for the spring and early summer months, compared with a year earlier, will be the marked increases in supplies of beef and potatoes. Unusually large supplies of beef and veal of better grades will be available at prices substantially lower than last spring, but probably about the same as in recent weeks. In contrast to a year earlier, an abundance of potatoes from the record early crop is ready for marketing, and prices will be much below last year.

The sharp increase in beef and veal supplies will be accompanied by some increase in lamb and mutton. Because of the reduction in pork supplies, however, meat consumption may not differ very much from the 1952 rate. The increase in retail pork prices probably will not be as great as the decreases in prices of other meats, so meat prices will continue to average lower than in 1952.

If weather conditions are reasonably favorable, more fresh vegetables will be marketed this spring and early summer compared with a year earlier. The extent of damage by recent frosts to deciduous fruit trees has not yet been determined. The 1953 strawberry crop will be down some from that of 1952. Larger supplies of frozen fruit juices and vegetables but smaller stocks of frozen fruits than in 1952 are available for consumption in the next few months. The prospects for supplies of most other foods for consumption during the spring and early summer are similar to those of the same months of 1952.

Despite the large supplies of food available for domestic consumption during the coming months, retail food prices are likely to continue fairly stable at about the current level. With lower farm prices, this means that farmers are currently receiving a smaller share of the retail food dollar--46 percent for the first quarter of 1953 as compared with 49 percent for the corresponding quarter of 1952. Consumer demand for food is very strong.

Continued -

Table 1.- Volume of agricultural production for sale and for farm home consumption and civilian per capita food consumption, 1941, 1950, 1951, 1952 and preliminary indications for 1953, with percentage comparisons 1/

(Index numbers, 1935-39 = 100)

| Item | 1941 | 1950 | 1951 | 1952 | Indications for 1953 2/ | 1953 as a percentage of 1952 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Food grains 3/ | 131 | 148 | 145 | 191 | 150 | 79 |
| Truck crops 4/ | 116 | 147 | 160 | 154 | 163 | 106 |
| Fruits and nuts 5/ | 113 | 126 | 127 | 121 | 124 | 102 |
| Vegetables, excluding truck crops 6/ | 100 | 113 | 88 | 90 | 90 | 100 |
| Sugar crops 7/ | 97 | 112 | 89 | 90 | 91 | 101 |
| Total food crops 8/ | 116 | 134 | 129 | 140 | 130 | 93 |
| Meat animals 9/ | 117 | 138 | 143 | 149 | 151 | 101 |
| Poultry 10/ | 120 | 179 | 191 | 200 | 201 | 100 |
| Dairy products 11/ | 110 | 113 | 112 | 112 | 114 | 102 |
| Total food livestock | 115 | 138 | 142 | 147 | 148 | 101 |
| Food production | 115 | 137 | 139 | 145 | 144 | 99 |
| Agricultural production, food and nonfood | 113 | 135 | 140 | 145 | 143 | 99 |
| Civilian per capita food consumption | 109 | 111 | 111 | 112 | 113 | 101 |

1/ Beginning with 1950, the data for most commodities have been revised to reflect changes in estimates of production which incorporated benchmark data from the 1950 Census of Agriculture. Revisions for the years 1945-49 are not yet complete. 2/ Production estimates for 1953 are based on prospective acreage, preliminary crop indications and estimated marketings and home consumption of livestock and livestock products. 3/ Includes wheat, rye, rice, and buckwheat. 4/ Includes truck crops for market (artichokes, asparagus, lima beans, snap beans, beets, cabbage, cantaloupe, carrots, cauliflower, celery, cucumbers, eggplant, lettuce, onions, peas, peppers, spinach, tomatoes and watermelons) and truck crops for processing (asparagus, lima beans, snap beans, beets, cabbage, sweet corn, cucumbers, peas, spinach, and tomatoes). 5/ Includes apples, peaches, pears, cherries, apricots, grapes, strawberries, cranberries, oranges, grapefruit, lemons, olives, dried California figs, fresh and dried plums, almonds, pecans, and walnuts. 6/ Includes dry edible beans, potatoes, and sweetpotatoes. 7/ Includes sugar beets, sugarcane for sugar, sugarcane sirup, sorgo sirup, maple sugar, and maple sirup. 8/ Includes peanuts in addition to the other crops. 9/ Includes cattle and calves, sheep and lambs, and hogs. 10/ Includes eggs, chickens, turkeys, and broilers. 11/ Includes wholesale milk, retail milk, butterfat, farm butter, and farm consumption of dairy products.

Table 2.- Total food utilization: Source and distribution, 1935-39 average, 1940-44 and 1950-53 1/

| Year | Source of total food: Total food utilization | Source of total food: Food production | Source of total food: Imports | Source of total food: Reduction in stocks | Source of total food: Increase in stocks | Distribution: Civilian | Distribution: Military, including military civilian feeding | Distribution: Department of Agriculture 2/: Net purchases | Distribution: Department of Agriculture 2/: Deliveries | Distribution: Department of Agriculture 2/: Reduction in stocks | Distribution: Department of Agriculture 2/: Increase in stocks | Distribution: Commercial exports and shipments 3/ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent | Percent |
| | Section a. Percentage of food utilization in each year | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1935-39 av. | 100.0 | 93.9 | 6.1 | | | 97.7 | | -.2 | | .2 | | 2.5 |
| 1940 | 100.0 | 95.1 | 5.5 | | .6 | 98.0 | | | | | | 2.0 |
| 1941 | 100.0 | 94.4 | 5.8 | | .2 | 93.8 | 2.0 | 2.4 | 1.9 | | .5 | 1.8 |
| 1942 | 100.0 | 94.2 | 3.7 | 2.1 | | 87.2 | 5.8 | 5.9 | 4.5 | | 1.4 | 1.1 |
| 1943 | 100.0 | 95.8 | 4.8 | | .6 | 81.4 | 9.6 | 8.1 | 7.1 | | 1.0 | .9 |
| 1944 | 100.0 | 94.0 | 5.0 | 1.0 | | 79.7 | 13.2 | 6.0 | 6.5 | .5 | | 1.1 |
| 1950 | 100.0 | 95.0 | 5.3 | | .3 | 93.0 | 4/2.0 | 1.7 | 1.5 | | .2 | 3.3 |
| 1951 | 100.0 | 94.6 | 5.1 | .3 | | 89.7 | 4/3.9 | 1.2 | 1.9 | .7 | | 5.2 |
| 1952 Prel. | 100.0 | 95.1 | 5.1 | | .2 | 91.1 | 4/2.9 | .4 | .5 | .1 | | 5.6 |
| 1953 Forecast | 100.0 | 94.8 | 4.7 | .5 | | 91.3 | 4/3.0 | .9 | .2 | | .7 | 4.8 |
| | Section b. Percentage of 1935-39 food utilization | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1935-39 av. | 100.0 | 93.9 | 6.1 | | | 97.7 | | -.2 | | .2 | | 2.5 |
| 1940 | 109.6 | 104.2 | 6.0 | | .6 | 107.4 | | | | | | 2.2 |
| 1941 | 114.4 | 108.0 | 6.7 | | .3 | 107.3 | 2.3 | 2.7 | 2.2 | | .5 | 2.1 |
| 1942 | 125.6 | 118.3 | 4.7 | 2.6 | | 109.5 | 7.3 | 7.4 | 5.6 | | 1.8 | 1.4 |
| 1943 | 131.3 | 125.8 | 6.3 | | .8 | 106.9 | 12.7 | 10.6 | 9.3 | | 1.3 | 1.1 |
| 1944 | 139.9 | 131.5 | 7.0 | 1.4 | | 111.4 | 18.4 | 8.5 | 9.1 | .6 | | 1.6 |
| 1950 | 135.4 | 128.6 | 7.2 | | .4 | 126.0 | 4/2.7 | 2.3 | 2.0 | | .3 | 4.4 |
| 1951 | 137.9 | 130.5 | 7.0 | .4 | | 123.8 | 4/5.4 | 1.6 | 2.6 | 1.0 | | 7.1 |
| 1952 Prel. | 143.1 | 136.2 | 7.2 | | .3 | 130.3 | 4/4.1 | .6 | .7 | .1 | | 8.1 |
| 1953 Forecast | 142.6 | 135.1 | 6.8 | .7 | | 130.2 | 4/4.3 | 1.2 | .3 | | .9 | 6.9 |

1/ Beginning with 1950, the data for most commodities have been revised to reflect changes in estimates of production which incorporated benchmark data for the 1950 Census of Agriculture. Revisions for the years 1945-49 are not yet complete. The upper section of the table divides the utilization in each year (1) according to the source of the food and (2) according to its distribution. Both the total utilization figures and the break-down are on an index number basis, that is, they represent quantities weighted by average farm prices in the period 1935-39. The utilization figure includes both domestically produced and imported foods. The lower section contains the same data expressed as a percentage of total food utilization in 1935-39 instead of total utilization each year. 2/ The quantities assigned to the Department of Agriculture are food for lend-lease, relief, and purchases for foreign governments, except meat transactions in the drought years. These quantities are measured (1) in terms of Department of Agriculture purchases from commercial channels and (2) in terms of shipments out of the country. When measured in terms of purchases, additions to Department of Agriculture stocks are included. When measured in terms of shipments, additions to stocks are shown separately. When Department of Agriculture shipments were smaller than the total quantities purchased, stocks were built up; and vice versa. 3/ For the war years, these data indicate the commercial portion of exports and shipments, which is total exports and shipments minus the exports assignable to the Department of Agriculture. 4/ Including procurement for relief feeding in areas occupied by our armed forces.

Consumer income set a new record in the first quarter of this year and is expected to continue high. Food expenditures and food consumption may both average a little higher in 1953 than in 1952 if food supplies for fall and winter turn out as now expected.

Underlying the prospects for food supplies for civilian consumption are these factors: The level of food production is expected to equal that of last year if weather conditions are average; relatively large stocks of food were on hand at the beginning of the year; food exports will be reduced with most of the decline coming in wheat (comparing this calendar year with last year); and little change in military takings or imports appears likely.

## RETAIL FOOD PRICES

Retail food prices in urban areas during January-March 1953 averaged slightly lower than a year earlier, reflecting a continuation of a slight downward movement which began late last summer. Prospects for the next few months are that retail food prices will remain close to the present level. Food supplies will be at least as large through mid-year as in the same part of 1952, but consumer demand for food is strong and processing and marketing charges are not likely to decline.

Consumer demand for food and other goods and services thus far this year has been maintained at a very high rate by the record large flow of income payments to individuals resulting from the record pace of general economic activity. With current indications pointing to the continuation of the high level of both production activity and income payments for the next few months, no weakening in the domestic demand for consumer goods and services is in prospect for the near future.

Economic activity is likely to remain high through this year. If Government expenditures continue in 1953 at about present rates, as now seems likely, and current business investment plans materialize, consumer income and spending for goods and services are likely to continue near the present level.

Military procurement of food during 1953 is expected to approximate that of last year, but a decline in exports is in prospect. The decline in the export demand for United States food, which began in the latter half of 1952, reflects the general improvement in the food supply situation abroad. The impact of the reduction in our food export tonnage this year compared with last will fall heaviest on wheat, which has been the most important part of the total food shipped abroad since the end of World War II.

## NUTRITIONAL REVIEW 1/

Although there are slight shifts in the availability of individual food commodities in 1953 as compared with 1952, the nutritional level of the food supply will remain about the same. The 1 percent decrease in the availability of food energy and the 2- and 3-percent decrease in thiamine and fat are due chiefly to the expected decrease in supplies of pork. The expected increase in sweetpotatoes accounts for the 2-percent increase in vitamin A.

1/ Prepared by the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics.

Table 3.- Apparent civilian per capita consumption of major food commodities, primary distribution weight, calendar years, 1935-39 average, 1950, 1951, 1952, and preliminary indications for 1953, with percentage comparisons 1/

(Revised)*

| Commodity | Average 1935-39 | 1950 | 1951 | 1952 Preliminary | Preliminary indications for 1953 | 1953 as a percentage of 1935-39 | 1953 as a percentage of 1952 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Pounds | Pounds | Pounds | Pounds | Pounds | Percent | Percent |
| Meats (carcass weight) - Total | 125.3 | 142.4 | 135.8 | 144.2 | 144 | 115 | 100 |
| Beef | 54.8 | 62.5 | 55.2 | 61.0 | 70 | 128 | 115 |
| Veal | 8.1 | 7.9 | 6.6 | 7.1 | 8.4 | 104 | 118 |
| Lamb and mutton | 6.7 | 3.9 | 3.4 | 4.1 | 4.2 | 63 | 102 |
| Pork (excluding lard) | 55.7 | 68.1 | 70.6 | 72.0 | 61 | 110 | 85 |
| Fish (edible weight) - Total | 11.1 | 11.4 | 11.5 | 11.3 | 11.4 | 103 | 101 |
| Fresh and frozen | 5.3 | 6.3 | 6.4 | 6.2 | 2/ | --- | --- |
| Canned 3/ | 4.8 | 4.2 | 4.2 | 5.1 | 2/ | --- | --- |
| Cured | 1.0 | .9 | .9 | | | --- | --- |
| Poultry products | | | | | | | |
| Eggs - number | 296 | 383 | 395 | 407 | 387 | 131 | 95 |
| Chicken (dressed weight) | 17.8 | 26.2 | 28.8 | 29.6 | 29.6 | 166 | 100 |
| Turkey (dressed weight) | 2.6 | 4.8 | 5.2 | 5.4 | 5.3 | 204 | 98 |
| Dairy products | | | | | | | |
| Cheese | 5.5 | 7.6 | 7.2 | 7.7 | 7.9 | 144 | 103 |
| Condensed and evaporated milk | 16.5 | 19.9 | 18.0 | 17.4 | 17.4 | 105 | 100 |
| Fluid milk and cream (Unrevised) | 4/340 | 4/385 | 4/395 | 4/400 | 4/400 | 118 | 100 |
| Ice cream (product weight) | 9.4 | 16.0 | 15.9 | 16.3 | 16.3 | 173 | 100 |
| Fats and oils - Total, fat content 5/ | 44.4 | 45.1 | 41.6 | 44.1 | 44.0 | 99 | 100 |
| Butter, farm and factory (actual weight) | 16.6 | 10.6 | 9.5 | 8.7 | 8.6 | 52 | 99 |
| Margarine (actual weight) | 2.8 | 6.0 | 6.5 | 7.8 | 8.3 | 296 | 106 |
| Lard | 10.9 | 12.1 | 12.0 | 11.7 | | | |
| Shortening | 11.6 | 10.9 | 8.9 | 10.1 | 30.4 | 106 | 99 |
| Other edible fats and oils | 6.2 | 8.7 | 7.7 | 8.9 | | | |
| Fruits | | | | | | | |
| Fresh - Total | 137.5 | 107.9 | 116.1 | 112.9 | 114.8 | 83 | 102 |
| Citrus | 48.5 | 40.6 | 44.4 | 44.2 | 44.8 | 92 | 101 |
| Apples (commercial) | 30.2 | 22.9 | 25.4 | 21.5 | | | |
| Other (excluding melons) | 58.8 | 44.4 | 46.3 | 47.2 | 70 | 79 | 102 |
| Processed: | | | | | | | |
| Canned fruit | 14.8 | 20.9 | 18.6 | 20.2 | 19.7 | 133 | 98 |
| Canned juices | 3.8 | 13.7 | 14.6 | 13.4 | 12.0 | 316 | 90 |
| Frozen (including juices) | .8 | 4.2 | 4.7 | 6.5 | 6.6 | 825 | 102 |
| Dried | 5.7 | 4.3 | 4.3 | 4.3 | 2/ | --- | --- |
| Vegetables | | | | | | | |
| Fresh (Unrevised series) | 4/235 | 4/252 | 4/254 | 4/251 | 4/256 | 109 | 102 |
| Canned | 29.6 | 41.5 | 41.2 | 40.8 | 41.4 | 140 | 101 |
| Frozen | 6/ .4 | 3.3 | 4.1 | 4.5 | 4.6 | 1,150 | 102 |
| Potatoes | 128 | 103 | 103 | 101 | 102 | 80 | 101 |
| Sweetpotatoes | 21.3 | 12.3 | 7.1 | 7.2 | 8.5 | 40 | 118 |
| Dry edible beans | 8.7 | 8.5 | 8.0 | 8.4 | 7.6 | 87 | 90 |
| Dry field peas | .6 | .7 | .7 | .7 | 2/ | --- | --- |
| Sugar, refined | 96.2 | 94.7 | 96.1 | 95.9 | 7/93-96 | 98 | 99 |
| Grains | | | | | | | |
| Corn products: | | | | | | | |
| Corn meal | 22.8 | 12.7 | 12.6 | 12.3 | 12.2 | 54 | 99 |
| Corn sirup | 7.6 | 9.0 | 8.9 | 8.6 | 8.7 | 114 | 101 |
| Corn starch | 1.3 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 138 | 100 |
| Corn sugar | 2.7 | 4.5 | 4.0 | 3.9 | 4.0 | 148 | 103 |
| Breakfast cereals | 1.6 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 94 | 100 |
| Hominy | 1.4 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.6 | 2.6 | 186 | 100 |
| Oatmeal | 3.8 | 2.9 | 3.0 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 76 | 100 |
| Barley food products 8/ | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 93 | 100 |
| Wheat: | | | | | | | |
| Flour 9/ | 157 | 133 | 132 | 130 | 130 | 83 | 100 |
| Breakfast cereals | 3.7 | 3.3 | 3.3 | 3.3 | 3.3 | 89 | 100 |
| Rye flour | 2.2 | 1.4 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 68 | 100 |
| Rice, milled | 5.7 | 5.0 | 5.7 | 5.2 | 5.2 | 91 | 100 |
| Beverages | | | | | | | |
| Coffee 10/ | 13.9 | 16.0 | 16.3 | 16.5 | 16.5 | 119 | 100 |
| Tea | .66 | .59 | .64 | .64 | .64 | 97 | 100 |
| Cocoa beans | 4.3 | 4.3 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 93 | 100 |
| Peanuts (shelled) | 4.3 | 4.4 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 2/ | --- | --- |

Population estimates used to obtain per capita consumption figures are official Census estimates of total population adjusted for underenumeration and for military personnel not eating out of civilian supplies.

1/ Quantity in pounds except for eggs which are stated in number. Data on calendar year basis except for dried fruits which are on pack year basis; fresh citrus fruits, dry field peas and peanuts on a crop year basis; rice on August 1 year; and canned fruit and vegetables on pack year basis in 1935-39. All years begin in year indicated except for fresh citrus, which begins in October of the previous year and rice which begins in August of previous year. 2/ Not available. 3/ Excludes canned food products containing small quantities of fish such as clam chowder, etc. 4/ Unrevised for results of 1950 Census of Agriculture and for population revision. 5/ Computed from unrounded data. 6/ Average 1937-39. Data prior to 1937 are not available. 7/ Based on the U. S. domestic requirements of 7,900 thousand tons (raw value) as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture. 8/ All barley food products in terms of malt equivalent. 9/ Includes white, whole wheat, and semolina flour. 10/ Green bean basis.

*Except where otherwise noted data are revised to incorporate changes resulting from the 1950 Census of Agriculture and utilize a revised population series which is adjusted for underenumeration of all age groups. The population series previously used was adjusted for underenumeration of children under 5.

Foods that are important sources of major nutrients--dairy products; fruits and vegetables; meat, poultry, fish--- will again be relatively plentiful. The enrichment of grain products will continue to help safeguard diets with respect to iron and the three B-vitamins.

Table 4.- Nutrients available for civilian consumption per capita per day, calendar years, 1950, 1951, 1952 and preliminary indications for 1953, with percentage comparisons 1/

(Revised)*

| Nutrients | Units | 1950 | 1951 | 1952 Preliminary | Preliminary indication for 1953 | 1953 as a percentage of 1952 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Food energy | Cal. | 3,240 | 3,210 | 3,250 | 3,220 | 99 |
| Protein | Grams | 94 | 95 | 95 | 95 | 100 |
| Fat | Grams | 145 | 140 | 146 | 142 | 97 |
| Carbohydrate | Grams | 398 | 400 | 395 | 393 | 100 |
| Calcium | Grams | 1.06 | 1.07 | 1.09 | 1.09 | 100 |
| Iron | Mg. | 16.5 | 16.3 | 16.4 | 16.4 | 100 |
| Vitamin A value | I. U. | 8,500 | 8,100 | 8,300 | 8,500 | 102 |
| Thiamine | Mg. | 1.90 | 1.92 | 1.92 | 1.88 | 98 |
| Riboflavin | Mg. | 2.33 | 2.36 | 2.39 | 2.42 | 101 |
| Niacin | Mg. | 18.7 | 18.7 | 18.9 | 18.9 | 100 |
| Ascorbic acid | Mg. | 119 | 121 | 121 | 122 | 101 |

1/ Data computed by the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics on the basis of estimates of apparent civilian consumption (retail basis), including estimates of consumption from urban gardens, supplied by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. No deductions have been made in the nutrient estimates for the loss or waste in the home or for the destruction or loss of nutrients during the preparation of food. Deductions have been made for inedible refuse. The data for iron, thiamine, riboflavin, and niacin include the amounts of those nutrients added to prepared cereals, bread and white flour.

*Revised for changes in population and to incorporate changes in consumption as reported in table 3.

## COMMODITY REVIEWS

### Meat

Civilians apparently bought about 5 percent more meat per person during January-March than in the same period of 1952 at retail prices averaging somewhat lower. Prospects for 1953 as a whole are that consumption of meat will about equal last year's rate and that retail prices will continue to be somewhat lower.

The increase in civilian per capita consumption in the first quarter of 1953 over a year earlier reflected the expansion in supplies which began in 1952 and was particularly evident in the latter part of the year. Production of all meats during the first 3 months of this year totaled about 3 percent above that in the same period of last year. The quantity available for civilian consumption was up more than output chiefly because less pork went into storage this winter than last. Most of the increase in meat production was in beef and veal, though lamb and mutton production also was up. Pork output for the quarter was sharply smaller.

Civilians may have about as much meat per person during the remainder of 1953 as a year earlier if the livestock marketing pattern is not altered materially by weather or other factors. Prospects are that total meat supplies from April to December will be about the same or perhaps slightly larger than in the comparable part of 1952. The increase in beef and veal supplies over a year earlier will probably fully offset the decline anticipated for pork. During the next few months supplies will include a large volume of better grades of beef produced from grain-fed cattle. Next fall, a larger part of the available beef will be of medium and lower grades from grass-fat cattle. In view of these prospective supplies, civilian consumption of beef for the year as a whole may reach 70 pounds per person, 15 percent above that in 1952. This would exceed slightly the peak of 69 pounds consumed in 1947, and would be the highest since 1909. Retail prices of beef and veal this year are expected to average well below those of 1952.

Pork consumption in 1953 may be about 15 percent less than last year's rate of 72 pounds per person because of the prospective 12-15 percent smaller production than in 1952. The decline in pork production is expected because of the 11 percent reduction from a year earlier in the size of the 1952 fall pig crop and indications that farmers are holding 13 percent fewer sows to farrow pigs this spring. The 1952 fall pig crop will supply fewer hogs to be marketed for slaughter this spring and summer than last, and the 1953 spring farrowings will determine the volume of hogs marketed next fall and winter. The retail price of pork for 1953 is expected to average somewhat higher than in 1952.

Civilian consumption of lamb and mutton in 1953 probably will total 4.2 pound per capita, slightly above last year's rate. Production may total 670 million pounds, as against 648 million pounds in 1952.

Imports of meat this year are not expected to be greatly different from those of 1952, and will add relatively little to the total supply. Since March 1 both the Canadian and Mexican borders have been open for imports of fresh or frozen meats and also meat animals. However, the Mexican Government has imposed export quotas in order to insure adequate supplies of meat for the Mexican population. Trade with Canada, which depends largely on price considerations, may include somewhat larger imports of pork into the United States than in recent years but smaller imports of beef.

Somewhat more meat may be taken from domestic supplies by Federal Government agencies. The Defense Department has been instructed to build up their reserve stocks of carcass beef enough to provide for 120 days' needs. The Department of Agriculture, in March and April, purchased a small quantity of beef which will be distributed to the School Lunch program and other eligible outlets during 1953. This is the first time since the mid-1930's that beef has been purchased for direct distribution in this country. In addition, through the week of April 18, 1,840 thousand pounds of commercial grade frozen beef had been purchased for export to Greece under a Mutual Security Agency program.

Fishery products 1/

Civilian per capita consumption of fishery products during the early part of 1953 was about as large as a year earlier, and is expected to continue at the comparable 1952 rate at least through mid-year. Retail prices, judging from trade reports from important wholesale markets, have been much lower than in the comparable months of 1952. Current indications are that retail prices for fresh and frozen products as a group during the spring and early summer may be considerably below those in the same part of last year, while those of the canned commodities may be slightly lower.

The commercial catch of fish and shellfish during January-March 1953 was somewhat smaller than that of a year earlier. In some areas the size of the catch was limited by the availability of fish, as in the case of shrimp for the Gulf Coast States; in other areas the relatively low prices paid to fishermen discouraged commercial fishing activity.

Commercial freezings of fishery products in the Continental United States during the first quarter of this year totaled 26 million pounds, down about 20 percent from output in the comparable part of 1952. Freezings of shrimp and haddock fillets were sharply lower thus far in 1953 than a year earlier. Total output of frozen fish and shellfish is expected to increase by mid-1953, reflecting the seasonal increase in commercial landings.

The volume of frozen fishery products in cold storage in the Continental United States on April 1 totaled 112 million pounds, 5 percent above that of a year earlier and the largest on record for that date. An unusually large proportion of the total stocks on April 1 was made up of frozen fillets of cod, haddock and ocean perch and of frozen halibut.

About the same volume of canned fishery products has been available thus far this year as in the same part of 1952, when supplies were relatively small. The larger supplies of canned tuna, Maine sardines, mackerel and anchovies were more than offset by smaller quantities of canned salmon and the lack of California sardines. Current prospects are that supplies of canned fish and shellfish will total no larger than in 1952 at least until late summer, when the new packs start moving into domestic distribution in volume.

Imports of frozen groundfish and ocean perch fillets, a very important group among the fishery products received from abroad, totaled 16 million pounds during January and February 1953, about 15 percent smaller than a year earlier. Imports of these products during the next few months will be large, but are not expected to equal total receipts during the same part of 1952.

1/ Prepared in cooperation with the Fish and Wildlife Service of the U. S. Department of the Interior.

Exports of fishery products during January and February, especially of the canned commodities, were somewhat below the relatively small volume of a year earlier. During the spring months, exports may not exceed those of a year earlier because of the comparatively small domestic supplies of canned salmon and California sardines (pilchards), especially of the latter.

Poultry and Eggs

Slightly more poultry meat has been produced so far in 1953 than a year earlier, but output of eggs was slightly smaller. Current prospects are that the output of chicken meat for the year as a whole will be greater than in 1952, while production of eggs will be a little smaller and that of turkey meat considerably smaller. Civilian consumption of eggs and poultry through March 1953 was somewhat larger than early in 1952. The rate during the spring and early summer is not likely to be substantially different from the high level of last spring and summer.

Retail prices of eggs in urban areas through March averaged 10 to 15 percent above a year earlier, and indications are that they are likely to continue above the comparable 1952 prices at least until mid-year. The increase results from the closer balance between supplies and current consumption which is leaving fewer eggs for storage. Consumer demand for shell eggs for current consumption has continued strong this year, as has the demand for frozen eggs for current use and for storage.

Civilian consumption in 1953 is expected to be lower than last year's record rate of 407 eggs per person. Production of eggs this spring, reaching its seasonal peak in March or April, is below last spring's rate. However, after mid-year output is likely to be closer to or above year-ago levels. If the weather is nearly normal, output of eggs during the early summer will be higher than a year earlier, when hot weather caused a reduction in the rate of lay per bird. In November or December some increase over a year earlier in egg production may result from the possible build-up of farm flocks during 1953.

The net movement of shell and frozen eggs into cold storage thus far in 1953 has been much smaller than a year earlier, and combined stocks on April 1 totaled the equivalent of 2.1 million cases, 45 percent below the same date in 1952. With the strong demand for shell and frozen eggs for current consumption, the seasonal build-up of stocks is expected to continue to lag behind that of a year earlier. Holdings on July 1 are likely to be much below the 7.7 million equivalent cases in storage on July 1, 1952.

Civilian consumption of poultry meat per person in 1953 is expected to be close to that of last year. Production of chicken meat will expand this summer as seasonally increased sales of chickens from farm flocks augment the large marketings of specialized broilers. Commercial broiler production in specialized areas, which will continue large through the summer, will probably provide more than half of the chicken meat consumed in 1953. Chicken prices at retail were slightly lower in mid-February than a year earlier, but they may differ little from year-ago levels in the next few months.

Civilians had a little more turkey meat per person during the first quarter of 1953 than a year earlier. Cold-storage stocks, the principal source of turkeys at this time of the year, declined by almost 50 million pounds between February 1 and April 1, compared with a 23 million pound reduction in the same period last year. Part of the reduction in stocks this year was brought about by distribution of turkey meat to the School Lunch and other eligible programs. About 6 percent of the 1952 turkey crop was purchased by the Department under surplus-removal program.

Early-season hatchery reports indicate a reduction in production of turkeys from last year's record output. However, the extent of the turkey output decline in 1953 cannot be determined as yet.

Dairy Products

Consumption of most dairy products during the spring and early summer is likely to about equal the rates of a year earlier. However, with milk output reaching its seasonal peak early in June, supplies will exceed current consumption. As usual, some of the excess will go into commercial stocks, but further purchases under the Government price support program will be necessary.

As a result of the comparatively mild winter and good pastures, milk production in recent months has set new records for the time of year. U. S. output in the first quarter of 1953 totaled 27 1/3 billion pounds, 1.6 billion pounds, or 6 percent, above the first quarter of 1952. Consumption of milk in fluid form, on the other hand, increased only about as much over a year earlier as the population. The excess milk output has been channeled to several manufactured products, especially to butter, Cheddar cheese and nonfat dry milk solids--the three items being purchased by the USDA under the price-support program. But the rate of milk production during coming weeks is not expected to increase as fast as usual for the time of year. The annual rate of milk production for the remaining three quarters of 1953 is not likely to be nearly as great as in the first quarter. For the calendar year 1953, milk production on farms is likely to be between 117 and 118 billion pounds compared with 115 billion in 1952.

A larger proportion of the year's output of milk is expected to go into butter, cheese, and nonfat dry milk solids than in 1952. Production of other manufactured dairy products and consumption of fluid milk probably will average about the same per capita as in 1952.

Prices for dairy products at all levels of distribution, from farm to retail, are not likely to change more than slightly from current levels. Support buying of manufactured products will deter decreases and the availability of Government stocks for sale to private firms will work against increases. Wholesale prices for a number of dairy products were adjusted downward at the end of March in line with the decline in support purchase prices by the USDA effective on April 1. Retail prices recently have been about the same as a year earlier, whereas in January and February the price of butter was considerably below that of a year earlier when supplies were abnormally short relative to demand.

The quantities of milk products bought by the Department of Agriculture during the year ending March 31, 1953 were equivalent to about 3 percent of milk output during the preceding 12 months. This surplus was channeled to butter, cheese and nonfat dry milk solids. The total quantities of these products purchased in the 12 months ended March 31 were 143 million pounds of butter, 212 million pounds of nonfat dry milk and 75 million pounds of cheese. These were equivalent to 10 percent of the 1952 production of butter, 25 percent of nonfat dry milk output, and 9 percent of Cheddar cheese output. Although a part of these purchases was distributed to outlets that are not competitive to the commercial trade, stocks of these products held by the Department on April 17 were 82 million pounds of butter, 87 million pounds of Cheddar cheese and 187 million pounds of nonfat dry milk solids.

Imports of dairy products are being restricted in accordance with the provisions of Section 104 of the Defense Production Act, as amended. On March 24, 1953 the Secretary of Agriculture announced an embargo on imports of dried whole milk, dried buttermilk and dried cream, to become effective on April 1. Embargoes were continued on nonfat dry milk, butter, and high-fat malted milk compounds. Several varieties of cheese were continued under quotas previously announced. Without these restrictions a relatively large quantity of these products would be shipped to the United States by exporting countries, since domestic prices for dairy products --although at support levels--are high relative to those in the world market.

Total exports of dairy products in 1953 are not expected to be above the postwar low of less than 1 billion pounds, milk equivalent, reached in 1952. Last year was the first since 1940 that exports of dairy products were less than 2 billion pounds milk equivalent. Exports in both 1950 and 1951 were maintained at a high level partly as a result of the assistance supplied by the United States Government in the form of lower prices on those products which had been purchased under the domestic price-support program.

Fats and Oils

Civilians are likely to consume about as much food fats and oils in 1953 as a year earlier when they averaged 44 pounds (fat content) per person. The major changes from last year will be an increase in margarine and some decline in direct use of lard. With the repeal of legislation prohibiting production and sale of colored margarine in Vermont, Montana, Iowa and South Dakota (effective February 6, 27, July 4, and July 1, 1953, respectively) only Minnesota and Wisconsin now maintain such restrictions. Increasing quantities of lard are being used in shortening, continuing the strong upward trend of recent years. In the first two months of 1953 this use was at an annual rate of 300 million pounds, a fourth more than in 1952. Substantially lower prices for lard than for edible oils, encouraged this shift.

Transfers of butter, bought under the price-support program, to the School Lunch Program and to eligible institutions of various types will help maintain the rate of butter consumption per person this year near last year's average.

In recent months consumption of food fats apparently has been somewhat higher than the year before, with the major increase occurring in lard. However, some decline from last spring's unusually high level is likely this spring. Supplies of food fats have been plentiful and are expected to continue so through the summer. Supplies of lard during the last half of 1953 will not be as large as the year before, mainly reflecting an intended 15 percent decline in the 1953 spring pig crop. Output of butter towards the end of 1953 is not likely to be as large as the unusually high rate of a year earlier. In the latter part of 1952, excess supplies of milk from record high production for that time of year was channeled to butter production. For the entire year, supplies of food fats except lard will be larger than the year before. Lard output in 1953 will be down substantially from 1952.

Exports of fats and oils in calendar 1953 will be down somewhat from last year, when more than 10 percent of our total supplies were shipped abroad, but still constitute a moderate percentage of domestic production. Some decline is likely both in lard and edible vegetable oils. Rising prices expected for edible oils will tend to limit their export.

So far this year retail prices of butter, lard and shortening have been less than the year before while margarine prices have been slightly higher. Prices of food fats except butter for the next several months are likely to rise because of an upward movement in wholesale prices. Although supplies of edible vegetable oils are at a record level, most of it is owned by the Commodity Credit Corporation. Hence, wholesale prices in coming months largely will be determined by CCC's resale price, which is higher than the market price has been until recently. Hog slaugher has fallen off and is being reflected in some strengthening in the price of lard. This trend is likely to continue during the next few months. Butter output is rising seasonally and will tend to keep prices near the support level, which is about 2 cents below last year's support price.

Fruit

Total supplies of fruits probably will be about as large this spring and early summer as in the same period of 1952. Among the fresh fruits, supplies of apples, oranges and lemons are somewhat larger than in the spring of 1952; those of pears and Florida grapefruit are smaller. Among the processed fruits, supplies of frozen fruit juices are slightly larger than at this time of 1952, while those of frozen fruits and berries and of canned fruits are smaller. Supplies of most dried fruits will continue adequate for the anticipated domestic needs and exports.

Although fruit trees and vines came through the winter in generally good condition, widespread cold weather and storms in April may have reduced prospective production somewhat. However, with an average growing season from hereon, production of deciduous fruit may still be larger than last year's below-average output. Grower prices for the 1953-crop fruit probably will average near the 1952 level.

Prospects on April 1 were favorable for a relatively large crop of peaches in the 10 Southern early States. But these early prospects probably have been reduced somewhat by unfavorable weather during the month. Fresh market shipments of peaches from these States start in June and reach heavy volume in July and early August. Dry weather during the growing period reduced the crop in some of these States in 1952.

The production of strawberries probably will be somewhat smaller this year than last. Mainly because of increased acreage in Louisiana, production of strawberries for harvest during early spring is estimated to be considerably above the short crop in 1952. In contrast, acreage for harvest in mid-spring, mostly in May, is substantially smaller than in 1952 and production is expected to be 19 percent smaller. With acreage in the late spring States nearly the same as last year, production in these States may be somewhat smaller than in 1952 but well above the 1949-51 average. Cold storage stocks of frozen strawberries on March 31, 1953 were about 6 percent larger than a year earlier but they may not be much larger than a year earlier in May as freezing of this year's probable smaller pack reaches heavy volume. In 1952, over one-third of the commercial crop was processed into frozen strawberries.

Although supplies of fresh oranges are about as plentiful this spring as in this time of 1952, those of grapefruit are smaller. Main reasons for the smaller remaining supplies of grapefruit are the smaller production in Florida and greater utilization so far for processing. Movement of the Florida crops of oranges and grapefruit should be completed earlier this year than in 1951 and 1952, when it extended well into the summer. But with a larger crop of California Valencia oranges, supplies of oranges from that State should be larger during late spring and summer than in the same time in 1952.

Total supplies of canned fruits are expected to continue adequate until fruit from the new pack becomes available in summer. But this will mean some reduction in carryover stocks from the high levels at the start of the 1952-53 pack season. Packers' stocks of canned deciduous fruits on January 1 were smaller than a year earlier, and by April 1, 1953 combined stocks of 9 items were about 21 percent below the heavy stocks of a year earlier.

The Florida pack of canned citrus juices through April 11 was about 12 percent larger than in the same part of the 1951-52 season and movement to wholesalers has been fairly rapid. Despite the larger supplies of canned citrus juices, retail prices appear to be somewhat higher than in the spring of 1952.

In Florida, output of frozen orange concentrate through April 11, 1953 of the 1952-53 season, made mostly from mid-season oranges, totaled 26.7 million gallons, 3 percent larger than in the same part of the 1951-52 season. Output of other frozen concentrates--grapefruit, blended orange and grapefruit, and tangerine--also was larger than a year earlier. With retail prices moderately lower than a year earlier, purchases of frozen orange concentrate by household consumers have been much heavier this past fall and winter than in the comparable part of 1951-52. Total stocks of frozen orange juice in cold storage on March 31, 1953, were slightly larger than a year earlier. Output of frozen concentrate from Florida Valencia oranges is expected to run heavy during April, May and June, perhaps even larger than in the same months of 1952.

Total supplies of frozen deciduous fruits and berries (excluding juices), as indicated by stocks in cold storage, are considerably smaller this spring than last. Cold-storage holdings on March 31, 1953 were about 190 million pounds, 19 percent smaller than a year earlier and 16 percent smaller than the 1948-52 average for March 31. However, stocks of frozen strawberries and peaches were somewhat larger. In recent years, total stocks of frozen deciduous fruits and berries were at the lowest level of the year at the end of April.

Supplies of dried fruits are expected to continue adequate for the usual needs this spring. Even though the 1952-53 pack of dried prunes was considerably smaller than usual, supplies are expected to be more than sufficient until prunes from the 1953-54 pack become available this summer. The pack of raisins produced in 1952-53 was as large as that of 1951-52, and another large surplus over domestic needs resulted. Through an export-payment program, the Department of Agriculture had assisted producers in finding export outlets for about 83,000 tons by April 11 of the 1952-53 season.

Vegetables

Supplies and consumption of fresh vegetables in the first three months of 1953 were about 5 percent larger than a year earlier, and 9 percent above the 1949-51 average. Prices at retail for most vegetables were moderately lower this winter than last. However, for some vegetables prices were down sharply, particularly cabbage for which a large increase in supply of new or winter-harvested cabbage was supplemented by fairly large stocks of storage cabbage from the 1952 crop. Other vegetables in relatively abundant supply for the winter season, at reduced prices, were beets, carrots, cauliflower, kale, lettuce, and green peas. On the other hand, a few vegetables--notably dry onions out of storage--were in relatively smaller supply and prices were much higher this winter than last.

Production of vegetables for fresh market this spring is expected to be substantially larger than a year ago. Largest increases for the early and mid-spring crops are: 44 percent indicated for dry onions, 26 percent for cabbage, 9 percent for lettuce, 10 percent for broccoli, 8 percent for cauliflower and 7 percent for asparagus. Increased acreages also are indicated for late-spring asparagus and onions.

Prospective acreage of watermelons for early summer harvest, when most of the annual crop is produced, is up 20 percent from last year and well above average. The major part of the year's onion crop is produced in areas growing for late-summer harvest; prospective acreage in these areas this year is 8 percent larger than acreage harvested in 1952, but 6 percent below the 1949-51 average.

Supply prospects thus far indicated for 1953 fresh vegetables point to the likelihood of generally lower prices for vegetables this year compared to last.

Commercial canners and freezers of vegetables this year probably will aim at packs about as large as in 1952, judging from current stocks and relatively steady wholesale prices. Latest available data indicate that combined canner and wholesale distributor stocks of canned sweet corn, tomatoes, tomato juice, tomato catsup and chili sauce, tomato paste, tomato sauce, carrots, pumpkin and squash, spinach, and sweetpotatoes are larger than those of a year earlier, while stocks of canned snap beans, green peas, asparagus, lima beans, beets, sauerkraut, and tomato pulp and puree are smaller. Commercial canners usually try to adjust their current packing operations to allow for the carryover from the preceding year.

Reports from processors in late February and early March indicated the probability of a small increase over last year in the acreage of green peas planted for processing this year. Of the indicated acreage, a little more than one-fourth is for freezing and the rest for canning.

Less spinach will be produced for processing than last year according to reports from processors in the winter crop area of Texas and early spring crop areas of California. The indicated crop in these two areas--which usually supply about half of the total annual crop for this purpose--is about 10 percent smaller than last year but 6 percent more than the 1949-51 average.

Stocks of frozen vegetables in commercial cold storage on April 1 this year were a record for that date. However, because domestic consumption is still expanding, another large pack is probable this year.

Because of the generally adequate supply, no general increase in prices of canned and frozen vegetables over last year is expected.

Reflecting larger supplies in early 1953 than a year earlier, prices for potatoes were considerably lower in the first quarter of 1953 than a year earlier. The stocks of old crop potatoes on January 1 this year were a fifth larger than the unusually low stocks a year earlier, although shipments of late crop 1952 potatoes up to January 1 were substantially larger than those of a year earlier. Rail shipments of new crop potatoes through the first week in March remained below those of a year earlier, but forged ahead of last year in the latter part of March and by mid-April were 50 percent larger than the comparable movement of a year earlier. Production and acreage thus far indicated for early commercial potatoes this year are considerably above those of 1952. Retail prices have been somewhat slow in reflecting lower farm prices, but have fallen in recent weeks.

The additional acreage indicated in early commercial areas and acreages planned for other areas as indicated by farmers' planting intentions in early March, point to larger supplies for the rest of the year. If acreage turns out as indicated and the weather is favorable, supplies of potatoes will be much larger and prices would continue much lower this year than last.

Civilian per capita consumption of potatoes is estimated to have been nearly constant the last 2 or 3 years at a little over 100 pounds. If potatoes continue to be plentiful at much reduced prices this year, there might be a temporary rise in per capita consumption. However the rate of increase in consumption will be considerably less than the extent of the drop in prices.

Farmers' planting intentions for sweetpotatoes as of early March indicated a considerable increase in acreage for this year over last. If this increase is realized, and yields by States equal the recent 5 year average, the crop would be nearly one-fourth larger than the small 1952 crop, but about 2/3 of the 1941-50 average.

Grain Products

Supplies of grains and of processed cereal products are sufficient to meet all domestic civilian and military demand, most export demand, and to provide adequate carryover stocks into the 1953-54 crop year. Rice is the only major grain for which export demand exceeds available U. S. supplies. Civilian consumption of most major cereal products is expected to continue at about the same rates as in 1952.

The winter wheat crop was estimated at 714 million bushels as of April 1, a third less than the near record 1952 crop. The first estimate of the spring wheat crop will not be made until June 10, but if farmers should plant the acreage indicated by their March 1 intentions and yields by States are average, the crop might run about 310 million bushels. If so, the total wheat output would again exceed 1 billion bushels. Total use in this country will be about 700 million bushels, leaving 300 million bushels or so for export or addition to carryover. The carryover on July 1, 1953 may be 575 million bushels, more than double that of a year earlier.

Farm prices of wheat in 1953-54, as well as retail prices of the food products made from wheat, may be expected to average about the same as in the current marketing year. For the July-March period in 1952-53 retail prices of white flour, as indicated in BLS reports, were about the same as a year earlier, while the price of white bread increased about 3 percent.

On the basis of present prospects, the 1953 rye crop may be little different from the small crop of 1952. Rye crops since the war ended have been considerably reduced from earlier levels. The reduction reflects the smaller quantity used for livestock feed. Demand for rye for processing food products has been met in full.

If rice farmers should plant the acreage indicated by their March 1 intentions and yields by States are average, the 1953 rice crop would amount to about 31.0 million cwt. of milled rice, excluding brewers. This would be about 3 percent below the record 1952 crop. Civilian consumption of rice is expected to be about the same per person as in the current year. Retail rice prices for the year beginning August 1, 1952 to date for cities covered in the BLS surveys were about 10 percent above a year earlier. Prices for the 1953 crop may average about the same as in the current marketing year.

Export demand for rice in 1953-54 probably will continue strong. The movement out of the United States this year is being regulated by allocations and export licensing, which were initiated early in the current marketing year.

In the early part of 1953, sales of corn sirup, sugar, and starch for domestic food use have been a little larger than in the comparable months of 1952 and they may total a little higher for the 1953 calendar year. Domestic consumption of corn meal per capita, on the other hand, has been declining in recent years and a further slight decline is expected this year. The shortage of corn in the South, particularly of white corn, resulted in higher prices for corn meal in early 1953 than a year ago in a number of Southern cities. On the other hand, corn meal prices are about the same as a year ago in mid-Western cities, where a bumper corn crop was produced in 1952. Retail prices of the corn food products and oatmeal in the first quarter of 1953 were about the same as a year earlier and probably will continue so through the first half of the year. During the last half of 1953, prices of food produces made from corn, oats and barley will be influenced to some extent by prospects for the 1953 crops.

Stocks of corn available for distribution from now until the 1953 crop is harvested this fall are much larger than a year earlier and the carryover next October 1 is expected to be considerably larger than the 486 million bushels carried over in 1952.

Stocks of oats and barley are somewhat smaller than a year earlier and the carryover stocks of these grains on July 1, 1953 probably will be smaller than at the beginning of the current marketing year. Commercial stocks of these grains, however, are expected to be adequate to meet the needs for domestic food use which make up a very small percentage of the total utilization.

While much depends on the growing season, early indications are that the total feed grain supply for 1953-54 may be about equal to the 1952-53 supply. Based on farmers' plans in early March, the prospective acreage to be planted to corn this year is expected to be slightly smaller than last year, while a slightly larger acreage of oats is in prospect and nearly the same acreage of barley. If yields by States are equal to the 1947-51 average and the prospective acreages are planted, production of the 3 grains including corn for all purposes, would total about 111 million tons, about 6 percent smaller than in 1952. Stocks carried into 1953-54, however, are expected to be around a fourth larger than the 20 million tons in 1952-53, which would give a total supply of these 3 grains about equal to that for the current season.

Sugar

Preliminary reports indicate that primary distributors marketed a total of 1,968 thousand short tons of sugar (raw value) to domestic consumers--civilians and military agencies--during the first three months of 1953. This was about the same as distribution in the same period of 1952.

The prospective acreage to be planted in sugar beets this year is 801 thousand acres, 11 percent greater than the acreage planted in 1952 but 3 percent smaller than the 1942-51 average. If the yields this year approximate the average for 1947-51, by States, on intended acreage, total production of sugar beets would be about 10.5 million tons, compared with 10.2 million tons in 1952. An increase in sugar beet production would have little effect on domestic supplies of sugar this year, since marketings of sugar from 1953-crop beets will not begin until late in the year. The quantity of sugar in the offshore producing areas supplying the United States, while smaller this year than last, will be ample for United States requirements.

The sugar marketing quota for 1953 was increased by 100 thousand tons on April 10 to 7,900 thousand tons (raw value), equal to the final quota for 1952. Distribution by primary distributors in 1952 totaled about 8,100 thousand tons. The 1953 quota was set at this level in order to result in prices equitable to both producers and consumers. On the basis of the current marketing quota, the supply per capita will be slightly less than in 1952.

The retail price of refined sugar in large cities during February averaged 51.3 cents per 5-pound sack, slightly higher than for the same month of 1952.

Table 5.- Planted acreage of major crops, 1935-39 average, 1952, prospective plantings for 1953, with percentage comparisons

| Crop | Planted acreage | | Prospective plantings 1953 1/ | Prospective 1953 as a percentage of | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1935-39 | 1952 | | 1935-39 | 1952 |
| | 1,000 acres | 1,000 acres | 1,000 acres | Percent | Percent |
| Total 2/ | 323,739 | 326,429 | 329,018 | 101.6 | 100.8 |
| Corn, all | 97,044 | 82,658 | 81,764 | 84.3 | 98.9 |
| Wheat, all | 73,236 | 77,447 | 76,961 | 105.1 | 99.4 |
| Winter | 51,577 | 55,929 | 55,361 | 107.3 | 99.0 |
| Spring, all | 21,659 | 21,518 | 21,600 | 99.7 | 100.4 |
| Oats | 40,591 | 42,975 | 43,777 | 107.8 | 101.9 |
| Barley | 13,365 | 9,385 | 9,357 | 70.0 | 99.7 |
| Flaxseed | 1,938 | 3,450 | 4,142 | 213.7 | 120.1 |
| Rice | 1,007 | 2,013 | 2,119 | 210.4 | 105.3 |
| All sorghums | 15,254 | 12,455 | 14,666 | 96.1 | 117.8 |
| Potatoes | 3,123 | 1,417 | 1,509 | 48.3 | 106.5 |
| Sweetpotatoes | 804 | 334 | 367 | 45.6 | 109.7 |
| Beans, dry edible | 1,917 | 1,319 | 1,332 | 69.5 | 101.0 |
| Soybeans, for beans 3/ | 3,042 | 14,075 | 4/ 14,200 | 466.8 | 100.9 |
| Soybeans, grown alone 5/ | 7,262 | 15,643 | 15,862 | 218.4 | 101.4 |
| Hay, all 3/ | 67,940 | 74,664 | 74,859 | 110.2 | 100.3 |
| Tobacco 3/ | 1,647 | 1,776 | 1,659 | 100.7 | 93.5 |
| Peas, dry field | 281 | 228 | 234 | 83.3 | 102.6 |
| Peanuts, picked and threshed 3/ | 1,659 | 1,513 | 6/ 1,271 | 76.6 | 84.0 |
| Peanuts, grown alone 5/ | 2,173 | 1,969 | 1,958 | 90.1 | 99.4 |
| Sugar beets | 891 | 720 | 801 | 89.9 | 111.2 |

1/ From March 1953 Prospective Plantings Report and December 19, 1952 Winter Wheat and Rye Report.

2/ Includes "Soybeans, for beans" and "Peanuts, picked and threshed."

3/ Harvested acreage.

4/ 1953 indicated solid equivalent acreage adjusted for the percentage harvested for beans by using the 1950-52 average percentages, by States.

5/ For all purposes.

6/ Assuming the 1947-51 average relationship of acreages planted alone to acreages for picking and threshing, by States.

Table 6.- Prospective and actual acreages planted in major crops, 1950-52, with percentage comparisons 1/

| Crop | 1950 | | | 1951 | | | 1952 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Prospective | Actual | As percentage of prospective | Prospective | Actual | As percentage of prospective | Prospective | Actual | As percentage of prospective |
| | 1,000 acres | 1,000 acres | Percent | 1,000 acres | 1,000 acres | Percent | 1,000 acres | 1,000 acres | Percent |
| Total | 282,722 | 281,172 | 99 | 280,156 | 277,528 | 99 | 276,778 | 272,524 | 98 |
| Corn, all | 82,765 | 82,858 | 100 | 85,694 | 83,283 | 97 | 83,928 | 82,658 | 98 |
| Spring wheat | 19,727 | 18,888 | 96 | 21,850 | 22,264 | 102 | 21,998 | 21,518 | 98 |
| Oats | 47,964 | 45,464 | 95 | 44,191 | 41,682 | 94 | 42,818 | 42,975 | 100 |
| Barley | 13,879 | 13,100 | 94 | 11,413 | 10,869 | 95 | 9,752 | 9,385 | 96 |
| Flaxseed | 4,027 | 4,274 | 106 | 3,921 | 4,116 | 105 | 3,935 | 3,450 | 88 |
| Rice | 1,645 | 1,632 | 99 | 1,931 | 1,998 | 103 | 1,971 | 2,013 | 102 |
| All sorghums | 14,568 | 16,050 | 110 | 12,540 | 15,027 | 120 | 13,442 | 12,455 | 93 |
| Potatoes | 1,862 | 1,712 | 92 | 1,590 | 1,359 | 85 | 1,373 | 1,417 | 103 |
| Sweetpotatoes | 603 | 502 | 83 | 444 | 320 | 72 | 334 | 334 | 100 |
| Tobacco 2/ | 1,582 | 1,599 | 101 | 1,745 | 1,783 | 102 | 1,804 | 1,776 | 98 |
| Beans, dry edible | 1,678 | 1,656 | 99 | 1,664 | 1,519 | 91 | 1,414 | 1,319 | 93 |
| Peas, dry field | 281 | 256 | 91 | 244 | 327 | 134 | 267 | 228 | 85 |
| Soybeans 3/ | 13,500 | 15,129 | 112 | 13,772 | 15,190 | 110 | 15,457 | 15,643 | 101 |
| Peanuts 3/ | 2,570 | 2,670 | 104 | 2,614 | 2,592 | 99 | 2,158 | 1,969 | 91 |
| All hay 2/ | 4/75,091 | 74,368 | 99 | 4/75,656 | 74,442 | 98 | 4/75,380 | 74,664 | 99 |
| Sugar beets | 980 | 1,014 | 103 | 887 | 757 | 85 | 747 | 720 | 96 |

1/ Based on the prospective planted acreages indicated by farmers' reported March 1 intentions.

2/ Acreage harvested.

3/ Grown alone for all purposes. Data for soybeans are partly duplicated in hay acreage.

4/ Includes wild hay harvested in 21 Western States, to be comparable with actual acreage data.

Table 7.- Production of major food commodities, calendar years, 1935-39 average, 1950, 1951, 1952 and preliminary indications for 1953, with percentage comparisons 1/

| Commodity | Unit | Average 1935-39 | 1950 | 1951 | 1952 Preliminary | Preliminary indications for 1953 2/ | 1953 as a percentage of 1935-39 | 1953 as a percentage of 1952 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Meats (carcass weight) | | | | | | | | |
| Beef | Mil. lb. | 6,937 | 9,538 | 8,843 | 9,628 | 11,200 | 161 | 116 |
| Veal | Mil. lb. | 1,038 | 1,230 | 1,061 | 1,170 | 1,380 | 133 | 118 |
| Lamb and mutton | Mil. lb. | 870 | 597 | 522 | 648 | 670 | 77 | 103 |
| Pork (excluding lard) | Mil. lb. | 7,337 | 10,714 | 11,483 | 11,589 | 10,050 | 137 | 87 |
| Total meats | Mil. lb. | 16,182 | 22,079 | 21,909 | 23,035 | 23,300 | 144 | 101 |
| Fish (edible weight) | | | | | | | | |
| Fresh and frozen | Mil. lb. | 615 | 750 | 770 | 730 | 3/ | --- | --- |
| Canned 4/ | Mil. lb. | 337 | 643 | 485 | 440 | 3/ | --- | --- |
| Cured | Mil. lb. | 74 | 63 | 63 | 63 | 3/ | --- | --- |
| Total fish | Mil. lb. | 1,026 | 1,456 | 1,318 | 1,233 | 3/ | --- | --- |
| Poultry and eggs | | | | | | | | |
| Eggs | Mil. doz. | 3,335 | 5,384 | 5,433 | 5,593 | 5,500 | 165 | 98 |
| Chickens (dressed weight) | Mil. lb. | 2,327 | 4,061 | 4,598 | 4,690 | 4,875 | 209 | 104 |
| Turkey (dressed weight) | Mil. lb. | 350 | 736 | 839 | 925 | 850 | 243 | 92 |
| Dairy products | | | | | | | | |
| Total milk 5/ | Bil. lb. | 106.4 | 117.6 | 115.7 | 115.9 | 118.2 | 111 | 102 |
| Cheese 6/ | Mil. lb. | 669 | 1,191 | 1,161 | 1,195 | 1,265 | 189 | 106 |
| Condensed and evaporated milk | Mil. lb. | 2,225 | 3,205 | 3,228 | 3,166 | 2,965 | 133 | 94 |
| Ice cream (product weight) | Mil. lb. | 1,232 | 2,550 | 2,616 | 2,708 | 2,750 | 223 | 102 |
| Fats and oils | | | | | | | | |
| Butter, farm and factory (actual weight) | Mil. lb. | 2,170 | 1,648 | 1,452 | 1,435 | 1,575 | 73 | 110 |
| Lard 7/ | Mil. lb. | 1,630 | 2,631 | 2,864 | 2,900 | 2,500 | 153 | 86 |
| Margarine (fat content) | Mil. lb. | 303 | 763 | 851 | 1,046 ) | | | |
| Shortening | Mil. lb. | 1,529 | 1,710 | 1,403 | 1,611 ) | 4,500 | 187 | 98 |
| Other edible fats and oils 8/ | Mil. lb. | 575 | 1,611 | 2,150 | 1,950 ) | | | |
| Total fats and oils 9/ | Mil. lb. | 6,207 | 8,363 | 8,720 | 8,942 | 8,575 | 138 | 96 |
| Fruits | | | | | | | | |
| Fresh: | | | | | | | | |
| Citrus | Mil. lb. | 6,875 | 6,756 | 7,634 | 7,816 | 7,900 | 115 | 101 |
| Apples (commercial) | Mil. lb. | 4,385 | 3,894 | 3,538 | 3,350 ) | 8,250 | 91 | 106 |
| Other (excluding melons) | Mil. lb. | 4,703 | 3,859 | 4,325 | 4,462 ) | | | |
| Processed: | | | | | | | | |
| Canned fruit | Mil. lb. | 1,705 | 2,740 | 3,111 | 2,777 | 2,900 | 170 | 104 |
| Canned fruit juices | Mil. lb. | 333 | 2,085 | 2,424 | 1,874 | 1,770 | 532 | 94 |
| Frozen (including juices) | Mil. lb. | 106 | 785 | 802 | 1,000 | 1,075 | 1,014 | 108 |
| Dried | Mil. lb. | 1,118 | 743 | 949 | 949 | 3/ | --- | --- |
| Vegetables | | | | | | | | |
| Fresh 10/ (Unrevised series) | Mil. lb. | 11/30,520 | 11/38,794 | 11/38,944 | 11/39,300 | 11/41,000 | 134 | 104 |
| Canned | Mil. lb. | 4,030 | 5,910 | 7,806 | 7,234 | 7,000 | 174 | 97 |
| Frozen | Mil. lb. | 12/ 78 | 587 | 770 | 800 | 800 | 1,026 | 100 |
| Potatoes | Mil. bu. | 355 | 430 | 320 | 348 | 385 | 108 | 111 |
| Sweetpotatoes | Mil. bu. | 68 | 50 | 29 | 28 | 35 | 51 | 125 |
| Dry edible beans 13/ | Mil. lb. | 1,360 | 1,513 | 1,588 | 1,559 | 1,360 | 100 | 87 |
| Dry field peas 13/ | Mil. lb. | 229 | 295 | 352 | 238 | 240 | 105 | 101 |
| Canned baby foods | Mil. lb. | 48 | 547 | 503 | 562 | 580 | 1,208 | 103 |
| Sugar, raw basis | 1,000 sh. tons | 1,948 | 2,460 | 2,042 | 2,094 | 2,300 | 118 | 110 |
| Grains | | | | | | | | |
| Wheat | Mil. bu. | 759 | 1,019 | 981 | 1,291 | 1,024 | 135 | 79 |
| Rye | Mil. bu. | 44.9 | 21.3 | 21.3 | 15.9 | 20.0 | 45 | 126 |
| Rice, milled | Mil. lb. | 1,340 | 2,644 | 2,522 | 3,101 | 3,292 | 246 | 106 |
| Corn, grain only | Mil. bu. | 2,050 | 2,760 | 2,617 | 3,002 | 2,750 | 134 | 92 |
| Oats | Mil. bu. | 1,045 | 1,410 | 1,321 | 1,268 | 1,340 | 128 | 106 |
| Barley | Mil. bu. | 239 | 304 | 254 | 227 | 224 | 94 | 99 |
| Peanuts, farmers' stock basis | Mil. lb. | 1,229 | 2,037 | 1,676 | 1,365 | 3/ | --- | --- |

1/ Calendar year basis except for fresh citrus fruit for which the season begins in the fall of the previous year; dried fruits which are on a pack-year basis; rice on a marketing year.

2/ Preliminary indications based on trends in livestock numbers, current or prospective rates of output, average or probable acreages and yields, and such other data or advance estimates as are available. These estimates are used only to indicate the general level of food supplies for domestic consumption for 1953, but they are based on such official estimates of production as are available at this time. Revisions will of course be made from time to time throughout the year as official indications or estimates are issued through the Crop Reporting Service of the Department.

3/ Not available.

4/ Excludes products containing small quantities of fish such as clam chowder, etc.

5/ These estimates include a tentative allowance for non-farm production of 2.8 billion pounds in 1935-39, 1.0 in 1950, 0.9 in 1951, 0.8 in 1952, and 0.7 billion pounds in 1953.

6/ Excludes full skim, cottage, pot, and bakers' cheese.

7/ Includes amount used in manufactured food and nonfood products.

8/ Represents fats used in cooking and salad oils, salad dressing, mayonnaise, bakery products and other minor uses such as fish canning.

9/ Fat content basis except for butter which is on an actual weight basis.

10/ Estimates of all vegetables and melons other than potatoes and sweetpotatoes include reported commercial production for fresh market shipments plus rough estimates of quantities produced in market gardens for fresh sale and farm gardens for home use. Excludes town garden production.

11/ Unrevised for results of the 1950 Census of Agriculture. 12/ Average 1937-39. Data prior to 1937 are not available. 13/ Cleaned basis.

Table 8.- Retail food prices and total consumer price index, United States, 1940-51 and 1952-53 by months

(Index numbers 1935-39=100)

| Year and month | Meats 1/ | Eggs | Dairy products 2/ | Fats and oils 3/ | Cereals and bakery products | Fruits and vegetables | Sugar and sweets | Beverages | All foods | Consumer price index |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1940 | 96 | 94 | 101 | 82 | 97 | 96 | 97 | 92 | 97 | 100 |
| 1941 | 108 | 112 | 112 | 94 | 98 | 103 | 106 | 102 | 106 | 105 |
| 1942 | 126 | 136 | 125 | 120 | 105 | 131 | 126 | 122 | 124 | 117 |
| 1943 | 134 | 162 | 135 | 126 | 108 | 169 | 127 | 125 | 138 | 124 |
| 1944 | 130 | 153 | 134 | 123 | 108 | 168 | 126 | 124 | 136 | 126 |
| 1945 | 131 | 164 | 134 | 124 | 109 | 177 | 126 | 125 | 139 | 129 |
| 1946 | 161 | 169 | 165 | 152 | 125 | 182 | 144 | 140 | 160 | 140 |
| 1947 | 217 | 210 | 186 | 198 | 155 | 199 | 180 | 187 | 194 | 160 |
| 1948 | 246 | 209 | 205 | 196 | 171 | 205 | 174 | 205 | 210 | 172 |
| 1949 | 233 | 201 | 187 | 148 | 170 | 208 | 176 | 221 | 202 | 170 |
| 1950 | 244 | 174 | 185 | 144 | 173 | 199 | 180 | 312 | 204 | 172 |
| 1951 | 272 | 211 | 206 | 169 | 188 | 218 | 187 | 344 | 227 | 186 |
| 1952 | 270 | 193 | 215 | 143 | 193 | 229 | 188 | 347 | 232 | 190 |
| Jan. | 272 | 184 | 216 | 155 | 191 | 241 | 186 | 347 | 232 | 189 |
| Feb. | 271 | 166 | 217 | 151 | 191 | 224 | 185 | 347 | 228 | 188 |
| Mar. | 268 | 161 | 216 | 146 | 191 | 232 | 184 | 347 | 228 | 188 |
| Apr. | 267 | 166 | 213 | 143 | 191 | 247 | 186 | 347 | 230 | 189 |
| May | 266 | 164 | 211 | 140 | 194 | 254 | 187 | 347 | 231 | 189 |
| June | 271 | 169 | 210 | 140 | 193 | 250 | 188 | 346 | 232 | 190 |
| July | 270 | 209 | 212 | 141 | 194 | 253 | 189 | 346 | 235 | 191 |
| Aug. | 277 | 217 | 214 | 141 | 194 | 242 | 190 | 347 | 236 | 191 |
| Sept. | 277 | 221 | 217 | 141 | 194 | 228 | 190 | 347 | 233 | 191 |
| Oct. | 272 | 231 | 218 | 141 | 194 | 227 | 191 | 346 | 232 | 191 |
| Nov. | 266 | 226 | 218 | 140 | 194 | 237 | 191 | 346 | 232 | 191 |
| Dec. | 262 | 202 | 217 | 140 | 194 | 236 | 190 | 347 | 230 | 191 |
| 1953 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Jan. 4/ | 258 | --- | 215 | --- | 195 | 238 | --- | --- | 228 | 190 |
| Feb. 4/ | 250 | --- | 213 | --- | 194 | 237 | --- | --- | 224 | 190 |
| Mar. 4/ | 249 | --- | 212 | --- | 195 | 236 | --- | --- | 225 | 190 |

Index numbers from Bureau of Labor Statistics and rounded to the nearest whole number by Bureau of Agriuclutral Economics. The consumer price index is adjusted for "new unit bias" in rents beginning 1940; in addition, beginning 1950 all series are adjusted for expanded commodity coverage and revisions in both commodity and population weights. Detailed description of the adjustments are published in the April 1951 issue of the Monthly Labor Review.

1/ Includes chicken and fish.

2/ Includes butter.

3/ Excludes butter.

4/ Adjusted to 1935-39 base from data (revised January 1953) which are computed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics on a 1947-49 base. The series for eggs, fats and oils, sugar and sweets, and beverages are not available and sub-indexes for fruits and vegetables are no longer reported separately.

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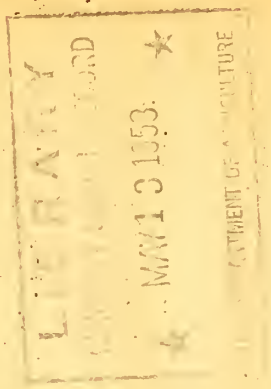

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# THE National Food SITUATION

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NFS-65 BAE JULY-SEPT. 1953

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, July 24, 1953

## SUMMARY

Near-record supplies of food at retail prices averaging a little lower than a year earlier are in prospect for consumers in the coming months of 1953. The largest increases in supplies over the same period of 1952 are expected for beef, fresh vegetables, potatoes and sweetpotatoes. Supplies of dairy products, eggs, and chicken meat are expected to be at or above last year's levels.

Large numbers of cattle on farms have resulted in heavy marketings for slaughter. Consequently, record supplies of beef are available at the lowest prices in several years. Pork and lard supplies in the last half of 1953 will be below a year earlier because of the smaller pig crop this spring, but this will be offset by large supplies of the other meats and vegetable oils. Supplies of dairy products may continue to exceed market demand. Large stocks of butter, cheese and nonfat dry milk solids are in Government hands.

Among the crops, notable improvement in supplies of potatoes and sweetpotatoes is indicated for this fall compared with a year earlier.

Retail prices of food products averaged slightly below a year earlier the first half of this year. Although consumer demand is likely to continue strong, retail prices in general probably will continue to average a little below a year ago. Substantially lower prices for beef and reductions for fish, dairy products, vegetables, potatoes and sweetpotatoes will be mainly responsible for the slight decline. Prices of processed fruits, sugar and cereal products probably will be above the last half of 1952.

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Table 1.- Apparent civilian per capita consumption of major food commodities, primary distribution weight, calendar years, 1935-39 and 1947-49 averages, 1951, 1952, and preliminary estimates for 1953, with percentage comparisons 1/

| Commodity | Average 1935-39 | Average 1947-49 | 1951 | 1952 | 1953 Preliminary: | 1953 as a percentage of 1935-39 | 1953 as a percentage of 1947-49 | 1953 as a percentage of 1952 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Pounds | Pounds | Pounds | Pounds | Pounds | Percent | Percent | Percent |
| Meats (carcass weight) - Total | 125.3 | 146.4 | 135.8 | 144.1 | 148 | 118 | 101 | 103 |
| Beef | 54.8 | 64.6 | 55.2 | 61.3 | 73 | 133 | 113 | 119 |
| Veal | 8.1 | 9.6 | 6.6 | 7.1 | 9.2 | 114 | 96 | 130 |
| Lamb and mutton | 6.7 | 4.8 | 3.4 | 4.1 | 4.4 | 66 | 92 | 107 |
| Pork (excluding lard) | 55.7 | 67.4 | 70.6 | 71.6 | 62 | 111 | 92 | 87 |
| Fish (edible weight) - Total | 10.9 | 10.3 | 11.2 | 11.0 | 11.0 | 101 | 107 | 100 |
| Fresh and frozen | 5.3 | 5.9 | 6.6 | 6.3 | 2/ | --- | --- | --- |
| Canned 3/ | 4.8 | 3.8 | 4.0 | 4.1 | 2/ | --- | --- | --- |
| Cured | .8 | .6 | .6 | .6 | 2/ | --- | --- | --- |
| Poultry products | | | | | | | | |
| Eggs - number | 296 | 380 | 395 | 407 | 395 | 133 | 104 | 97 |
| Chicken (dressed weight) | 17.7 | 23.7 | 28.8 | 29.6 | 29.2 | 165 | 123 | 99 |
| Turkey (dressed weight) | 2.6 | 4.0 | 5.2 | 5.4 | 5.3 | 204 | 132 | 98 |
| Dairy products | | | | | | | | |
| Cheese | 5.5 | 6.9 | 7.1 | 7.7 | 7.8 | 142 | 113 | 101 |
| Condensed and evaporated milk | 16.5 | 19.8 | 18.0 | 17.4 | 17.4 | 105 | 88 | 100 |
| Fluid milk and cream (revised) | 330 | 359 | 352 | 352 | 352 | 107 | 98 | 100 |
| Ice cream (product weight) | 9.8 | 18.5 | 17.1 | 17.5 | 17.3 | 177 | 94 | 99 |
| Fats and oils - Total, fat content 4/ | 44.7 | 41.8 | 41.6 | 43.9 | 43.7 | 98 | 105 | 100 |
| Butter, farm and factory (actual weight) | 16.8 | 10.5 | 9.5 | 8.7 | 8.6 | 51 | 82 | 99 |
| Margarine (actual weight) | 2.8 | 5.5 | 6.5 | 7.8 | 8.2 | 293 | 149 | 105 |
| Lard | 10.9 | 12.2 | 12.1 | 11.8 | 11.0 | 101 | 90 | 93 |
| Shortening | 11.6 | 9.5 | 8.9 | 10.0 | 10.7 | 92 | 113 | 107 |
| Other edible fats and oils | 6.4 | 7.2 | 7.6 | 8.8 | 8.5 | 133 | 118 | 97 |
| Fruits | | | | | | | | |
| Fresh - Total | 137.1 | 130.3 | 114.4 | 111.3 | 111.3 | 81 | 85 | 100 |
| Citrus | 48.5 | 53.9 | 44.4 | 44.2 | 44.0 | 91 | 82 | 100 |
| Apples (commercial) | 30.2 | 25.2 | 25.4 | 21.1 | 21.8 | 72 | 87 | 103 |
| Other (excluding melons) | 58.4 | 51.2 | 44.6 | 46.0 | 45.5 | 78 | 89 | 99 |
| Processed: | | | | | | | | |
| Canned fruit | 14.8 | 18.1 | 18.6 | 20.3 | 19.7 | 133 | 109 | 97 |
| Canned juices | 3.8 | 16.0 | 14.6 | 13.9 | 12.1 | 318 | 76 | 87 |
| Frozen (including juices) | .8 | 3.2 | 4.7 | 6.5 | 6.6 | 825 | 206 | 102 |
| Dried | 5.7 | 4.2 | 4.3 | 4.3 | 4.4 | 77 | 105 | 102 |
| Vegetables | | | | | | | | |
| Fresh (total commercial) 5/ | 139 | 150 | 143 | 142 | 146 | 105 | 97 | 103 |
| Canned | 29.6 | 38.5 | 41.2 | 41.3 | 41.4 | 140 | 108 | 100 |
| Frozen | 6/.4 | 2.8 | 4.1 | 5.1 | 5.3 | 1,325 | 189 | 104 |
| Potatoes | 128 | 112 | 108 | 101 | 105 | 82 | 94 | 104 |
| Sweetpotatoes | 21.3 | 12.3 | 7.2 | 6.6 | 8.0 | 38 | 65 | 121 |
| Dry edible beans | 8.7 | 6.6 | 8.0 | 8.4 | 8.4 | 97 | 127 | 100 |
| Dry field peas | .6 | .6 | .7 | .7 | .7 | 117 | 117 | 100 |
| Sugar, refined | 96.7 | 93.5 | 96.1 | 96.1 | 7/93-96 | 98 | 101 | 98 |
| Grains | | | | | | | | |
| Corn products: | | | | | | | | |
| Corn meal | 22.8 | 13.4 | 12.6 | 12.3 | 12.2 | 54 | 91 | 99 |
| Corn sirup | 7.6 | 9.8 | 8.9 | 8.6 | 8.7 | 114 | 89 | 101 |
| Corn starch | 1.3 | 1.8 | 1.9 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 138 | 100 | 100 |
| Corn sugar | 2.7 | 4.2 | 4.0 | 3.9 | 4.0 | 148 | 95 | 103 |
| Breakfast cereals | 1.6 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 94 | 100 | 100 |
| Hominy | 1.4 | 2.8 | 2.7 | 2.6 | 2.6 | 186 | 93 | 100 |
| Oatmeal | 3.8 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 89 | 100 | 100 |
| Barley food products 8/ | 1.4 | 1.6 | 1.4 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 93 | 81 | 100 |
| Wheat: | | | | | | | | |
| Flour 9/ | 157 | 135 | 132 | 130 | 130 | 83 | 96 | 100 |
| Breakfast cereals | 3.3 | 3.1 | 3.1 | 3.1 | 3.1 | 94 | 100 | 100 |
| Rye flour | 2.2 | 1.4 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 68 | 107 | 100 |
| Rice, milled | 5.7 | 4.8 | 5.7 | 5.2 | 5.2 | 91 | 108 | 100 |
| Beverages | | | | | | | | |
| Coffee 10/ | 13.9 | 18.0 | 16.3 | 16.5 | 16.6 | 119 | 92 | 101 |
| Tea | .66 | .57 | .64 | .64 | .65 | 98 | 114 | 102 |
| Cocoa beans | 4.3 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 93 | 100 | 100 |
| Peanuts (shelled) | 4.3 | 4.4 | 4.7 | 4.7 | 2/ | --- | --- | --- |

Population estimates used to obtain per capita consumption figures are official Census estimates of total population adjusted for underenumeration and for military personnel not eating out of civilian supplies.

1/ Quantity in pounds except for eggs which are stated in number. Data on calendar year basis except for dried fruits which are on pack year basis; fresh citrus fruits, dry field peas and peanuts on a crop year basis; rice on August 1 year; and canned fruit and vegetables on pack year basis in 1935-39. All years begin in year indicated except for fresh citrus, which begins in October of the previous year and rice which begins in August of previous year. 2/ Not available. 3/ Excludes canned food products containing small quantities of fish, such as clam chowder, etc. 4/ Computed from unrounded data. 5/ Completely revised series covers total commercial production for sale as fresh, both for shipment to distant markets and for local markets. Excludes farm garden output for farm household use. 6/ Average 1937-39. Data prior to 1937 are not available. 7/ Based on the U. S. domestic requirements of 8,000 thousand tons (raw value) as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture. 8/ Barley used for food products in terms of malt equivalent. 9/ Includes white, whole wheat, and semolina flour. 10/ Green bean basis.

The indexes of the volume of agricultural production for sale and for farm home consumption and civilian per capita food consumption (regularly presented in table 1); the index of total food utilization (table 2); and data on nutrients available for civilian consumption (table 4) are not included in this issue because they are being completely revised. They will be carried in the October-December 1953 issue. Revised data and descriptions of methodology will be presented in a bulletin replacing Misc. Pub. No. 691, Consumption of Food in the United States, 1909-48. The new publication probably will be issued in the latter part of this year. This publication will be sent without special request to all persons on the mailing list of The National Food Situation. Estimates of civilian per capita consumption of individual foods in table 1 of this issue will match the statistics in the new edition of the food consumption bulletin.

## RETAIL FOOD PRICES

Retail food prices in urban areas during the first half of 1953 averaged slightly below a year earlier. Most of the price decline occurred for meats (6 percent); the indexes for both dairy products and fruits and vegetables were slightly lower than the comparable January-June average, while that of the cereal and bakery products was a little higher. Retail food prices during the last half of 1953 are expected to average a little lower than a year earlier. The effect on prices of the near-record supply of food in prospect during this summer and fall, based on midyear indications, probably will be almost offset by the continuation of both strong civilian demand and rigidities in food marketing and processing charges.

General economic activity in coming months is expected to continue at a high level. Government defense expenditures for goods and services are likely to be sustained close to the present rate. There are no current indications of any substantial changes in investment plans by business. Thus, with employment and incomes likely to be maintained at a high level, civilian demand for food and the other consumer goods and services is expected to remain strong during the remainder of the year.

Purchases of food by military agencies for troop use are expected to be about as large as in the last half of 1952. Exports probably will be a little smaller in July-December than a year earlier. The foreign demand for food from the United States this year has been smaller than in 1952 primarily because of the improved world supply situation.

## COMMODITY REVIEWS

### Meat

Larger supplies of meat are indicated in the second half of 1953 than a year earlier, with increases in beef a little more than offsetting the decline anticipated for pork. The high level of personal disposable income in prospect for July-December points to the continuation of a relatively strong consumer demand for meat. Civilians are expected to take as much meat per person as in the last half of 1952 at retail prices which are

likely to be close to current levels but noticeably below those of a year earlier. Meat consumption per person during January-June 1953 totaled 75 pounds--7 percent above a year earlier and a record for this part of the year. For 1953 as a whole, civilians may consume about 148 pounds per person, 4 pounds more than a year earlier. Retail prices this year are expected to average substantially below the average for 1952.

Beef consumption per person this year may reach 73 pounds, 20 percent above the 1952 rate and equal to the record in 1909. During the first half of 1953 supplies were very large. With retail prices since January much below the level of a year earlier, civilians consumed substantially more beef per person than in the first half of 1952. Unless the cattle marketing pattern differs markedly from that now anticipated, consumption during the remainder of 1953 will continue at a higher rate than a year earlier. But the increase over last year probably will not be as large as that which occurred in the preceding 6 months. The medium grades of beef will constitute a larger proportion of the total beef supply this summer and fall than during the first half of the year.

Cattle have been moving to slaughter at an increasing rate for nearly a year. This is bringing the recent expansion in cattle numbers close to a halt. In January-June 1953 marketings for slaughter averaged a little over 30 percent above a year earlier. The volume of cattle marketed for meat in the coming months of this year is expected to increase seasonally. Marketings are expected to continue to expand above a year earlier, but the gain is not likely to be as large as earlier in 1953.

Civilian consumption of veal this year is expected to be 30 percent larger than the 7.1 pound per capita rate of 1952. Through mid-1953 civilians took somewhat more veal per person than a year earlier. During the remainder of the year consumption is expected to continue above the corresponding rate of last year. The magnitude of the increase in veal supplies and consumption in the last half of 1953 will to some extent depend on whether cattle raisers have decided to reduce the size of their herds from current record numbers. Usually, producers sell the cows and calves only after they have reduced holdings of other classes of cattle. No extensive liquidation of calves is expected this summer and fall, although the number slaughtered probably will be considerably greater than a year earlier.

The smaller pig crops in the fall of 1952 and spring of 1953 than a year earlier are being reflected in smaller supplies of pork and higher retail prices this year than last. Civilian consumption of pork in 1953 is expected to total about 62 pounds per person, 10 pounds less than in 1952. The reduction in civilian takings from a year earlier will be heavier this summer and fall than it was during the first half of the year. The spring crop which will be marketed during this period, was 10 percent smaller than that of 1952. This reduction is expected to result in a 13 percent smaller output of pork this fall and winter than a year earlier.

More lamb and mutton will be available this year than last. Civilian consumption of these meats is expected to total 4.4 pounds per person, compared with 4.1 pounds in 1952. The number of lambs and sheep marketed for slaughter in 1953 probably will be much larger than a year earlier, with most of the increase occurring during January-June. During the first half of this year marketings for slaughter were up 15 percent from a year earlier, a result of the early marketing of spring lambs and a further reduction in the number of lambs and sheep on farms.

Prospects are that retail meat prices during the remainder of the year will follow the usual seasonal pattern--some firmness during the summer, followed by a downward adjustment in the fall months as marketings of meat animals increase in volume. On the whole, meat prices are expected to average noticeably lower than in the last half of 1952. Very heavy marketings of grass-fat cattle during the coming months could result in a more-than-seasonal downward movement in beef prices.

Fishery Products

United States civilian per capita consumption of fishery products during January-June was somewhat smaller than a year earlier. The decline occurred almost entirely in fresh fish; the movement of both the canned and the frozen products into civilian markets was about as large as in the first half of 1952. Retail prices of fishery products through midyear averaged moderately lower than a year earlier. Prospects for the next few months are that civilians may take about as much fresh and processed fishery commodities per person as in the same period of last year. Retail prices for these products are not expected to average as high as those of a year earlier.

The total commercial catch of fish and shellfish through midyear was moderately smaller than for the same months of 1952. This reduction was the combination of several factors; unfavorable weather in both the New England and Gulf areas hampered commercial fishing operations; the relatively small catch of tuna in the usual fishing grounds. During the third quarter of 1953 commercial fishing operations and landings of fish and shell fish will reach seasonal peaks.

Freezings of fish and shellfish in the Continental United States from January to June totaled 84.8 million pounds, 25 percent smaller than for the comparable months of last year. Probably one of the most important factors which discouraged freezing activity was the fear of declining prices due to the large stocks of frozen fishery products early in the year and anticipated competition from imported frozen fish fillets.

The volume of edible frozen fishery products in storage on July 1 totaled 120.6 million pounds, 7 percent less than a year earlier. The net movement of fishery products out of cold storage was unusually large during the first 5 months of 1953 in response to some price cuts at the wholesale level. The seasonal build-up of frozen fish and shellfish stocks which began in June will continue will into the fourth quarter of the year.

Civilian consumption of canned fishery products through mid-1953 was about as large per person as a year earlier, according to trade information. Some seasonal increase will occur this summer, but the consumption rates are not expected to be much different from those of last summer.

Imports of fishery products this year will be large, but are not expected to reach the 1952 total. Receipts of major fishery products from abroad during the first four months of 1953 were about as large as a year earlier, with a sharp reduction in frozen groundfish fillets (including ocean perch) not quite offset by increased imports of canned fishery products. Exports of canned fish are expected to be much smaller in total this year than in 1952 principally because of the short supplies of California sardines.

Poultry and Eggs

At the beginning of July, egg production was at a higher rate than a year earlier, and is likely to continue so for the rest of the year. This contrasts with last spring, when monthly production was 2 to 3 percent lower than in 1952. The expected higher production this fall than last probably will more than offset the reduction in the stocks of eggs in storage, which on June 30 were lowest since 1916 when records were begun. Egg prices in the next few months are likely to be close to the levels of a year earlier.

Egg prices received by farmers this spring and early summer have been about 10 cents higher than a year earlier and the highest on record each month. Retail prices also have been well above a year earlier. Egg supplies to July 1, both total and per capita, were slightly lower than last year.

In recent months, poultry meat has been plentiful, and priced little different from the year before. Broiler prices have fluctuated but have averaged about the same as in the corresponding months of 1952, hens have been higher, and turkeys have been lower.

Broiler supplies in recent months have been at about the highest sustained level of all time, reflecting the steady record of large weekly placements in the commercial producing areas. The supply will continue large at least until September, when a seasonal decline in output usually begins. At that time, however, marketings of farm chickens are near their seasonal peak, and turkey marketings are rising seasonally. The year's production of broilers is likely to be larger than last year, of farm chickens about the same, and of turkeys appreciably smaller.

Supplies of fresh eggs in the remaining months of 1953 are likely to exceed 1952 because the number of layers is likely to hold close to last year, and the rate of lay per bird is expected to be higher. The production increase over last year is likely to offset the shortage of stored shell eggs, and the total supply of eggs this fall is likely to be larger than last year. Because of the increase in population, however, it is unlikely that per capita consumption during the fall will significantly exceed last year.

Dairy Products

Total supplies of dairy products during the second half of 1953 probably will be larger than a year earlier. Civilians are expected to consume about as much of the individual major dairy products per person as in July-December 1952. Retail prices of the major dairy commodities probably will not increase the usual seasonal amounts during late summer and early fall, and for this 6-month period are not expected to average as high as a year earlier.

Civilian per capita consumption of dairy products in 1953 is expected to be about the same as last year, although total distribution into civilian markets will be up somewhat. The upward trend in the per capita

consumption rate of nonfat dry milk solids apparently has been interrupted this year, despite sharply lower prices. Consumption of fluid milk and cream, cheese, evaporated milk, dry whole milk, and ice cream probably will be essentially the same as in 1952. Prospects are that civilians will use no more butter per person this year than last, despite lower average prices and larger consumer incomes. Retail prices of dairy products in 1953 are averaging a little lower than last year.

Milk production on farms through mid-year was substantially greater than at the same time in 1952, and for the year 1953 as a whole is expected to total around 118 billion pounds, compared with 115 billion pounds last year. Although output in May and June declined from the record annual rate of January-April, it remained well above that of a year earlier. Despite the greater number of cows in dairy herds, output during the remainder of 1953 may be no larger than a year earlier. In 1952, the milk flow during the early summer was reduced by drought in many areas but reached record rates in the fall and winter when weather was mild and concentrate feeding rates were high.

A larger proportion of the milk flow in 1953 will be channeled into butter, American cheese and nonfat dry milk production than a year earlier. With total distribution of these products into consumption likely to be only slightly larger than in 1952, stocks at the end of the year will be substantially greater than at the beginning. A large portion of the stocks will be owned by the Department of Agriculture, having been acquired under the price-support program. From last fall through mid-spring 1953 the Department's very heavy purchases of butter, American cheese, and nonfat dry milk solids under the price-support program approximated the difference between current production and current domestic consumption. Purchases of these 3 commodities under this program continue at an unprecedented rate even for this time of year. However, the Department is purchasing only a few percent of the total flow of milk.

Fats and Oils

Apparent civilian consumption of edible fats and oils in the first half of this year was about the same per person as in the comparable part of 1952. During the first quarter of 1953 the consumption rate was above that of a year earlier, but this increase was offset by a decline during the spring. With disappearance into the civilian market likely to continue below last year's rate during the summer and to increase somewhat during the last quarter, civilian consumption per person for the year as a whole is expected to be about as large as last year's rate of 44 pounds. Retail prices of food fats and oils during January-June averaged somewhat lower than a year earlier. However, with prices during the remainder of 1953 likely to remain at present levels or even strengthen a bit, the average for the year as a whole may be close to that of 1952, when the price trend was downward.

Prospects for the second half of 1953 are that margarine and shortening consumption will be somewhat larger per person than a year earlier, while that of butter will be about the same. Lard use, however, probably will fall a bit below the July-December 1952 rate. For the year as a whole, the expected moderate increase from last year in the per capita disappearance of margarine and shortening will about be offset by the probable decline in consumer use of lard. Civilians probably will take approximately as much butter and cooking and salad oils as in 1952.

Distribution of Government-owned butter to the School Lunch and other eligible programs will maintain civilian consumption of butter at last year's rate and will tend to exercise some restricting influence on the expansion in the use of margarine. However, the distribution of butter acquired under the Federal price-support program for dairy products is not likely to displace margarine on a pound-for-pound basis. The repeal of prohibitions against the manufacture and sale of colored margarine by four States during 1953 will help to expand the domestic consumption of this product. At present Minnesota and Wisconsin are the only States which prohibit the manufacture and sale of colored margarine; California and Pennsylvania prohibit its use in public eating places.

Large supplies of food fats and oils will be available for distribution during the latter half of this year. Stocks on July 1 were at a record high level and 50 percent larger than a year earlier. Most of the increase was in butter and edible oils; lard stocks were only slightly larger than in mid-1952. Production of vegetable oils this summer and fall probably will continue slightly larger than a year earlier.

Commercial production of lard during the remainder of the year is likely to be about 15 percent below the comparable rate last year primarily because the spring pig crop was 10 percent smaller this year than last. Since lard production through mid-1953 was also noticeably smaller than a year earlier, total output of lard in 1953 probably will be down about 15 percent from the 2,886 million pounds produced in 1952.

Butter production from July to December is not expected to equal output of a year earlier. Mild weather during late 1952 was reflected in a high level of milk production, a large part of which was channeled into the manufacture of butter. Since output in the winter and spring was 25 percent larger this year than last, butter production in 1953 is likely to exceed by 10 percent the 1952 total of 1,435 million pounds.

Exports of edible fats and oils (including the oil equivalent of soybeans and peanuts shipped abroad for subsequent crushing) through May were down about 40 percent from those of a year earlier. About half of this decline was in lard and the remainder in vegetable oils. However, with the price of U. S. soybean oil at about the world level for competing oils and less fats and oils available from other supplying areas, some pick-up in exports from the United States is in prospect for the last half of 1953.

Fruit

Total supplies of fresh fruits available to civilians this summer and fall may be about the same as a year earlier. Fresh deciduous fruits will be seasonally in large supply in the coming months, but the total

volume probably will be about equal to that in the same part of 1952. Somewhat less processed fruits probably will be available this summer than last, particularly canned and frozen fruits and fruit juices, as a result of the smaller stocks carried over this summer into the 1953 pack season. Retail prices of most fresh fruits this summer will be close to those of a year earlier; those of the canned and frozen products are expected to be a little higher.

Present indications are that civilian per capita consumption of fresh deciduous fruits and bananas will be about as large in 1953 as in 1952, when it was approximately 67 pounds. Consumption of apples and plums probably will be larger than in 1952. Larger crops of these 2 fruits are in prospect and their retail prices in the coming months are expected to be close to those of a year earlier. However, these production increases may be offset by decreases in other deciduous fruits.

Based on July 1 crop conditions, increased production of apples, clingstone peaches, apricots, plums, and sour cherries are expected in 1953. On the other hand, production of grapes, freestone peaches, strawberries, and sweet cherries is expected to be smaller. Total production of deciduous fruits thus probably will be a little smaller than in 1952. Imports of bananas, which provide an important supplement to domestic production, were about 5 percent larger during the first 4 months of 1953 than a year earlier. Consumption of bananas in 1952 was about 19 pounds per person.

Civilian per capita consumption of fresh citrus in 1953 is expected to be close to the 1952 rate of about 44 pounds. Supplies of oranges for use this summer and early fall, comprised almost entirely of the Valencia crop from California, are moderately larger than a year earlier. In the first half of this year consumption of citrus fruit in fresh form was a little smaller per person than a year earlier as a larger proportion of the lighter 1952-53 Florida crop of oranges and grapefruit was used for processing than in the preceding season. Prospects on July 1 were favorable for larger crops in this State in 1953-54.

Carryover stocks of the principal canned fruit items held by packers at the start of the 1953 deciduous fruit packing season, which is now under way, were about one-third smaller than the large stocks of a year earlier. However, supplies of most items will continue adequate to meet anticipated needs until the new packs start moving into distribution channels this summer. A small increase in the output of canned fruits is expected this year. Larger packs are anticipated for peaches, apricots, and sour cherries, with some increase also likely for fruit cocktail, salad, and mixed fruits. Supplies of canned fruit may therefore be about as large as last year despite reduced stocks on January 1, 1953. The consumption rate in 1953 may be nearly the same as the 20 pounds per person in 1952. Retail prices during the remainder of 1953 are expected to remain a little above those of a year earlier.

Civilian per capita consumption of canned fruit juices in 1953 probably will be moderately smaller than the 13 pounds in 1952. Carryover stocks at the beginning of 1953 were considerably below those of a year earlier and the output of canned concentrated citrus juices is down sharply this year. However, production of canned single-strength citrus juices in Florida, where the season for processing has recently closed, was about the same as in 1952. Increases in production of grapefruit juice and tangerine juice were about offset by decreases in orange juice and blended orange-grapefruit juice. With stocks of canned single-strength citrus juices held by Florida packers on June 27, 1953 about one-fourth smaller than a year earlier, supplies of these juices will be lighter this summer and early fall than in this period of 1952. Retail prices are expected to continue somewhat higher than a year ago.

Consumption of frozen fruits and fruit juices in 1953 probably will exceed slightly the record 6.5 pound per capita rate reached in 1952. With small increases likely in the production of both deciduous fruits and citrus juices, total output in 1953 is expected to be a little larger than the billion pounds produced in 1952. Among the frozen deciduous fruits and berries, the outlook is for a considerable increase in the pack of cherries but for some decrease in the pack of strawberries. In Florida where the frozen citrus juice production season just ended, this year's output of orange juice concentrate totaled about 6 percent larger than a year earlier. Production of frozen lemon juice and concentrate for lemonade in California probably will also be much larger than in 1952. Stocks of frozen orange juice in cold storage at the end of June were about 17 percent smaller than a year earlier. With the movement of this commodity into consumption channels expected to continue heavy this summer, stocks at the end of 1953 may not be as large as a year earlier.

Civilian per capita consumption of dried fruits in 1953 probably will be about the same as the 4.3 pounds estimated for 1952. Production of dried prunes is expected to be about as large this year as last, but that of raisins may be somewhat smaller. There may be small increases in a few other fruits. Because production of raisins in 1952 was considerably larger than usual domestic consumption, the Department of Agriculture with the use of export payments, helped move about 87,000 tons into foreign markets by the week ending July 18, 1953.

Vegetables

Total supplies of fresh and processed vegetables in the last half of 1953 may be a little larger than a year earlier, and those of both potatoes and sweetpotatoes somewhat larger. Retail prices of fresh vegetables during the coming months are expected to average moderately lower than in the same part of 1952 and those of potatoes and sweetpotatoes noticeably lower. However, prices of the processed vegetables during the remainder of this year probably will average about the same as a year earlier.

Consumers will have about as much or somewhat more fresh vegetables in July-December than a year earlier if favorable weather continues in the

principal producing areas. As of July 1, crop indications pointed to a 4 percent larger output of vegetables this summer than last. Significant increases from last year are in prospect for the summer crops of snap beans, celery, cantaloups and watermelons, and early summer onions. These and relatively less important increases for several other truck crops are expected to more than offset declines indicated for beets, cauliflower, cucumbers, eggplant, lettuce, green peas, and spinach. The most significant reduction from last summer is the 12 percent decline expected for lettuce. Retail prices of fresh vegetables in the next month or two will decline from the present level as marketings expand seasonally, and for the last half of the year probably will average somewhat lower than for the comparable part of 1952.

During the first half of 1953, civilians had moderately larger quantities of fresh vegetables per person than a year earlier. Retail prices of these commodities were generally somewhat lower than in January-June of last year.

Supplies of processed vegetables in prospect for the remainder of the year are sufficient to maintain civilian consumption of these products at a per capita rate at least as large as last summer and fall. Current stocks of both canned and frozen vegetables are larger than a year earlier, and acreages for commercial truck crops for processing indicate somewhat larger packs of most processed vegetables than in 1952. However, the pack of canned tomatoes and tomato products, as a group, probably will be smaller this year because of the one-fifth reduction in the acreage of tomatoes for processing.

For the year as a whole civilians are expected to take about the same quantities of canned vegetables per person as in 1952; but frozen vegetable consumption probably will be moderately larger than last year's record rate, continuing the strong upward trend. Retail prices of the major processed vegetables through midyear averaged slightly higher than a year earlier, but may weaken somewhat if 1953 packs conform to current crop indications.

Civilian consumption of potatoes in 1953 is expected to be about 105 pounds per capita, compared with 101 pounds of a year earlier. Through midyear the consumption rate was much above a year earlier when supplies during late winter and spring were relatively short. July 1 growing conditions point to about a 5 percent larger crop this summer and fall than last. Retail prices of potatoes during January-June averaged much lower than in the same part of 1952, and are expected to remain substantially lower than a year earlier during the remainder of the year.

More sweetpotatoes than a year earlier will be available in the coming months if current crop indications materialize. The 1953 sweetpotato crop, based on growing conditions at midyear, is estimated at 32.7 million bushels, 16 percent greater than the preceding crop but still considerably below average output for the period 1942-51.

During the first half of 1953 consumption was restrained by very small supplies of sweetpotatoes; retail prices averaged about as high as a year earlier when they reached record levels. The larger crop in prospect than last year will be only partly reflected in the consumption rate during the last half of this year since a portion of the crop will be stored for distribution during the first half of 1954. However, civilian consumption of sweetpotatoes for the year as a whole is expected to be more than a pound higher than the 1952 rate of 6.6 pounds per person. Retail prices of sweetpotatoes in the coming months of the year are expected to be materially lower than the record high prices of a year earlier in response to larger supplies.

The supply situation for dry edible beans and field peas in the 1953-54 marketing year is expected to be about the same as the preceding one. The 1953 crop of dry beans has been forecast at 2 percent larger than last year's output, and that of dry field peas--a much smaller crop than that of beans--30 percent higher. However, stocks of both items at the beginning of the current crop year probably are much smaller than for 1952-53. Civilian consumption of these commodities during the last half of this year is expected to continue close to that in the same part of 1952. Retail prices in the coming months probably will average somewhat lower than a year earlier.

Grain Products

Civilian per capita consumption of most grain products this year is expected to equal the 1952 rates. Through mid-1953 the B.L.S. retail price index for cereal foods and bakery products has been a little higher than a year earlier and probably will continue above last year's level in the coming months.

Current prospects are for very large supplies of grain well into 1954. July 1 prospects are for near-record harvests of both corn and rice this year, for a large crop of wheat, and average production of oats. Barley and rye production are likely to exceed the crops of last year, but both will be smaller than the average for the recent 10-year period. Except for rice, supplies of grain will be more than adequate to meet anticipated domestic--both food and nonfood--and export needs, and carryover stocks next year of some grains from the 1953 crop will be above those of a year earlier. Sufficient rice will be available during 1953-54 to meet consumer needs in this country, but exports will still have to be controlled.

July 1 crop indications point to a record large supply of wheat during the 1953-54 marketing year, exceeding last year's by 11 percent and the previous record supply (in 1942-43) by 9 percent. This year's wheat crop is currently estimated at 1,175 million bushels. This plus carryover stocks on July 1, 1953 of 559 million bushels and probable imports--for nonfood use--of 5 million bushels bring the total estimated supplies of wheat up to 1,939 million bushels. Domestic disappearance of wheat, both for food and nonfood purposes, probably will total about 700 million bushels, and even if exports reach the 1952-53 total of 315 million bushels, carryover stocks next July 1 would be about 165 million bushels larger than those of July 1, 1953. The decline in wheat exports from last

year's volume is likely because of favorable production prospects in other parts of the world, particularly in the wheat exporting countries.

The rye crop in prospect for this year is expected to total 17.4 million bushels, almost 10 percent above last year's output but still the third smallest crop in 78 years. Despite the small crop likely for this year, however, supplies of rye in 1953-54--estimated at 27 million bushels--will be sufficiently large to meet all anticipated domestic needs and even permit a small quantity to be exported. As in the past, most of the rye supplies will be used for feed, seed, and industrial purposes. Domestic food use of rye is expected to about equal the 1952-53 total of 5.4 million bushels.

This year's rice crop, currently forecast at 3,279 million pounds (milled basis), is nearly equal to the record 1952 harvest of 3,292 million pounds. A crop of this size will provide large supplies of rice for distribution in the 1953-54 marketing year. However, these supplies will not be adequate to cover both domestic needs and export requirements. Sufficient rice will be available for domestic use to permit civilians to consume as much rice per person as the 5.2 pounds, milled basis, estimated for 1952-53. As long as foreign requirements continue in excess of our exportable supplies, export allocations will remain in effect. The gap between export requirements and our exportable supplies will not be as wide this marketing year as it was in 1952-53.

The prospective decline in the export demand for rice in 1953-54 compared with a year earlier results mainly from the improved exportable supply situation in Southeast Asian producing areas and from changes in the relationship between the price of U. S. rice and the world market price. Last year the price authorized by the Office of Price Stabilization for the export grades of U. S. rice was close to the selling price of inferior grades available from the exporting areas in Southeast Asia. Consequently the foreign demand for U. S. rice was very strong. With the termination of price controls on U. S. rice early in 1953, the price of this commodity rose and the price spread between U. S. and Southeast Asian rice widened to reflect more nearly the quality differences. With exportable supplies of rice in Southeast Asia larger this year than last, importing countries in Asia will likely obtain rice from that area, as in the past.

Another year of generally ample supplies of feed grains is in prospect for 1953-54 as a result of the favorable weather through early July in the main producing area of the nation. As of July 1, indications pointed to the second largest crop of corn this year and production of both barley and oats a little larger than last year. A record corn supply, which includes carryover from the 1952 crop, is anticipated for 1953-54.

As in the past, only a relatively small part of the total feed grain supplies in 1953-54 will be used directly for the production of food products. Most of these grains will be utilized as feed for the production of milk, meat, and eggs.

The apparent domestic consumption of corn sugar, sirup and starch was a little larger through late spring than in the same months of 1952. During January-May primary sales of corn sugar for domestic use were 7 percent larger than a year earlier, corn sirup sales were up 3 percent, and starch for food use was 2 percent larger.

Sugar

United States civilian consumption of sugar per person in 1953 is not expected to differ substantially from last year's total of 95.9 pounds, refined basis. Marketings by primary distributors of sugar for domestic consumption during the first half of this year totaled 3,943 thousand tons (raw value), about 3 percent smaller than a year earlier. However, primary distribution during July-December is expected to be somewhat larger than in the same part of 1952. The retail price of refined sugar averaged moderately higher through mid-1953 than a year earlier, and in the coming months is expected to remain close to the current level. For the year as a whole the retail price of sugar may exceed somewhat the 1952 average.

The sugar marketing quota for 1953 was originally set at 7,800 thousand tons (raw value) late last year. The quota was increased to 7,900 thousand tons last April and to 8,000 thousand tons on July 22 to maintain prices at a level equitable to both producers and consumers. Most of the sugar called for by the increases will come from Cuba.

Indicated production of sugar beets as of July 1 was 10,925 thousand tons, 7 percent more than the 1952 crop and 9 percent above the 1942-51 average. However, in terms of raw sugar, the prospective increase in the beet crop over last year will about be offset by the anticipated reduction in the sugar cane crop. Based on recent growing conditions the 1953 crop of sugar cane is expected to total 7,223 thousand tons, 5 percent smaller than the previous crop. Sugar from this year's beet and cane crops will start moving into distribution channels this fall, and marketings will continue through most of 1954.

Table 2.- Production of major food commodities, calendar years, 1935-39 and 1947-49 averages, 1951, 1952 and preliminary estimates for 1953, with percentage comparisons 1/

| Commodity | Unit | Average 1935-39 | Average 1947-49 | 1951 | 1952 | 1953 Preliminary 2/ | 1953 as a percentage of 1935-39 | 1953 as a percentage of 1947-49 | 1953 as a percentage of 1952 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Meats (carcass weight) | | | | | | | | | |
| Beef | Mil. lb. | 6,937 | 9,649 | 8,843 | 9,667 | 11,900 | 172 | 123 | 123 |
| Veal | Mil. lb. | 1,038 | 1,454 | 1,061 | 1,173 | 1,500 | 145 | 103 | 128 |
| Lamb and mutton | Mil. lb. | 870 | 716 | 522 | 548 | 700 | 80 | 98 | 108 |
| Pork (excluding lard) | Mil. lb. | 7,337 | 10,281 | 11,483 | 11,547 | 10,000 | 136 | 97 | 87 |
| Total meats | Mil. lb. | 16,182 | 22,100 | 21,909 | 23,935 | 24,100 | 149 | 109 | 105 |
| Fish (edible weight) | | | | | | | | | |
| Fresh and frozen | Mil. lb. | 615 | 706 | 770 | 730 | 3/ | --- | --- | --- |
| Canned 4/ | Mil. lb. | 337 | 484 | 485 | 422 | 3/ | --- | --- | --- |
| Cured | Mil. lb. | 74 | 70 | 68 | 68 | 3/ | --- | --- | --- |
| Total fish | Mil. lb. | 1,026 | 1,260 | 1,323 | 1,220 | 3/ | --- | --- | --- |
| Poultry and eggs | | | | | | | | | |
| Eggs | Mil. doz. | 3,335 | 5,086 | 5,433 | 5,593 | 5,610 | 168 | 110 | 100 |
| Chicken (dressed weight) | Mil. lb. | 2,307 | 3,532 | 4,598 | 4,690 | 4,834 | 210 | 137 | 103 |
| Turkey (dressed weight) | Mil. lb. | 350 | 596 | 839 | 925 | 850 | 243 | 143 | 92 |
| Dairy products | | | | | | | | | |
| Total milk 5/ | Bil. lb. | 105.9 | 116.3 | 115.3 | 115.5 | 118.3 | 112 | 102 | 102 |
| Cheese 6/ | Mil. lb. | 673 | 1,160 | 1,161 | 1,195 | 1,275 | 189 | 110 | 107 |
| Condensed and evaporated milk | Mil. lb. | 2,225 | 3,497 | 3,228 | 3,166 | 2,910 | 131 | 83 | 92 |
| Ice cream (product weight) | Mil. lb. | 1,279 | 2,757 | 2,718 | 2,826 | 2,832 | 221 | 103 | 100 |
| Fats and oils | | | | | | | | | |
| Butter, farm and factory (actual weight) | Mil. lb. | 2,195 | 1,611 | 1,452 | 1,435 | 1,575 | 72 | 98 | 110 |
| Lard 7/ | Mil. lb. | 1,630 | 2,419 | 2,864 | 2,886 | 2,450 | 150 | 101 | 85 |
| Margarine (actual weight) | Mil. lb. | 372 | 839 | 1,041 | 1,286 | 1,329 | 357 | 158 | 103 |
| Shortening | Mil. lb. | 1,529 | 1,434 | 1,403 | 1,611 | 1,740 | 114 | 121 | 108 |
| Other edible fats and oils 8/ | Mil. lb. | 2,156 | 3,912 | 4,718 | 4,951 | 5,000 | 232 | 128 | 101 |
| Total fats and oils (fat content) 9/ | Mil. lb. | 5,554 | 7,627 | 8,751 | 8,992 | 8,720 | 157 | 114 | 97 |
| Fruits | | | | | | | | | |
| Fresh: | | | | | | | | | |
| Citrus | Mil. lb. | 6,875 | 8,782 | 7,634 | 7,816 | 7,900 | 115 | 90 | 101 |
| Apples (commercial) | Mil. lb. | 4,385 | 3,791 | 3,538 | 3,290 | 3,950 | 81 | 94 | 108 |
| Other (excluding melons) | Mil. lb. | 4,648 | 4,508 | 4,062 | 4,297 | 4,300 | 93 | 95 | 100 |
| Processed: | | | | | | | | | |
| Canned fruit | Mil. lb. | 1,705 | 2,591 | 3,111 | 2,778 | 2,900 | 170 | 112 | 104 |
| Canned fruit juices | Mil. lb. | 333 | 2,239 | 2,424 | 1,931 | 1,785 | 536 | 80 | 92 |
| Frozen (including juices) | Mil. lb. | 106 | 416 | 802 | 1,008 | 1,075 | 1,014 | 258 | 107 |
| Dried | Mil. lb. | 1,118 | 1,008 | 949 | 949 | 970 | 87 | 96 | 102 |
| Vegetables | | | | | | | | | |
| Fresh, total commercial 10/ | Mil. lb. | 18,158 | 22,221 | 22,254 | 22,636 | 23,800 | 131 | 107 | 105 |
| Canned | Mil. lb. | 4,030 | 6,064 | 7,806 | 7,317 | 7,200 | 179 | 119 | 98 |
| Frozen | Mil. lb. | 11/78 | 452 | 770 | 896 | 925 | 1,186 | 205 | 103 |
| Potatoes | Mil. bu. | 355 | 414 | 320 | 348 | 377 | 106 | 91 | 108 |
| Sweetpotatoes | Mil. bu. | 68 | 46 | 29 | 28 | 33 | 49 | 72 | 118 |
| Dry edible beans 12/ | Mil. lb. | 1,360 | 1,854 | 1,588 | 1,559 | 1,594 | 117 | 86 | 102 |
| Dry field peas 12/ | Mil. lb. | 229 | 401 | 352 | 238 | 312 | 136 | 78 | 131 |
| Canned baby foods | Mil. lb. | 48 | 469 | 503 | 562 | 580 | 1,208 | 124 | 103 |
| Sugar, raw basis | 1,000 sh. tons | 1,948 | 2,065 | 2,042 | 2,102 | 2,200 | 113 | 107 | 105 |
| Grains | | | | | | | | | |
| Wheat | Mil. bu. | 759 | 1,251 | 981 | 1,291 | 1,175 | 155 | 94 | 91 |
| Rye | Mil. bu. | 44.9 | 23.1 | 21.3 | 15.9 | 17.4 | 39 | 75 | 109 |
| Rice, milled | Mil. lb. | 1,340 | 2,330 | 2,522 | 3,101 | 3,292 | 246 | 141 | 106 |
| Corn, grain only | Mil. bu. | 2,050 | 2,788 | 2,617 | 3,002 | 3,009 | 146 | 108 | 100 |
| Oats | Mil. bu. | 1,045 | 1,294 | 1,321 | 1,268 | 1,319 | 126 | 102 | 104 |
| Barley | Mil. bu. | 239 | 279 | 254 | 227 | 247 | 103 | 89 | 109 |
| Peanuts, farmers' stock basis | Mil. lb. | 1,230 | 2,128 | 1,676 | 1,354 | 3/ | --- | --- | --- |

1/ Calendar year basis except for fresh citrus fruit for which the season begins in the fall of the previous year; dried fruits which are on a pack-year basis; rice on a marketing year.

2/ Preliminary estimates based on trends in livestock numbers, current or prospective rates of output, average or probable acreages and yields, and such other data or advance estimates as are available. These estimates are used only to indicate the general level of food supplies for domestic consumption for 1953, but they are based on such official estimates of production as are available at this time. Revisions will of course be made from time to time throughout the year as official indications or estimates are issued through the Crop Reporting Service of the Department.

3/ Not available.

4/ Excludes products containing small quantities of fish such as clam chowder, etc.

5/ These estimates include farm production of milk as reported by the Crop Reporting Board in "Farm Production, Disposition, and Income from Milk, 1950-51" (April 1952) and an allowance for nonfarm production of 2.3 billion pounds in 1935-39, 1.1 in 1947-49, 0.5 in 1951, 0.4 in 1952, and 0.3 billion pounds in 1953.

6/ Excludes full skim, cottage, pot, and bakers' cheese.

7/ Includes amount used in manufactured food and nonfood products.

8/ Includes cottonseed, peanut, soybean, corn, edible olive, and oleo oils, oleo stock, oleostearine, and edible tallow later processed into margarine, shortening, cooking and salad oils, etc., and nonfood items.

9/ Includes butter, lard, and "other fats and oils."

10/ Completely revised series covers total commercial production for sale as fresh, both for shipment to distant markets and for local markets. Excludes farm garden output for farm household use.

11/ Average 1937-39. Data prior to 1937 are not available.

12/ Cleaned basis.

Table 3.- Retail food prices 1/ and total consumer price index, United States, 1940-51 and 1952-53 by months

(Index numbers 1947-49=100)

| Year and month | Meats 2/ | Eggs | Dairy products 3/ | Fats and oils 4/ | Cereals and bakery products | Fruits and vegetables | Sugar and sweets | Beverages | All foods 1/ | Consumer price index |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1940 | 41 | 46 | 53 | 46 | 59 | 47 | 55 | 45 | 48 | 60 |
| 1941 | 46 | 55 | 58 | 52 | 59 | 50 | 60 | 50 | 52 | 63 |
| 1942 | 54 | 67 | 65 | 66 | 64 | 64 | 72 | 60 | 61 | 70 |
| 1943 | 58 | 80 | 70 | 70 | 65 | 83 | 72 | 61 | 68 | 74 |
| 1944 | 56 | 75 | 69 | 68 | 66 | 82 | 72 | 61 | 67 | 75 |
| 1945 | 56 | 81 | 70 | 69 | 66 | 87 | 72 | 61 | 69 | 77 |
| 1946 | 69 | 83 | 86 | 84 | 76 | 89 | 81 | 68 | 79 | 83 |
| 1947 | 94 | 99 | 97 | 110 | 94 | 98 | 102 | 92 | 96 | 96 |
| 1948 | 106 | 102 | 106 | 108 | 103 | 100 | 98 | 100 | 104 | 103 |
| 1949 | 100 | 99 | 97 | 82 | 103 | 102 | 100 | 108 | 100 | 102 |
| 1950 | 105 | 85 | 96 | 80 | 104 | 98 | 102 | 153 | 101 | 103 |
| 1951 | 117 | 104 | 107 | 94 | 114 | 107 | 106 | 169 | 113 | 111 |
| 1952 | 116 | 95 | 112 | 79 | 117 | 117 | 106 | 170 | 115 | 114 |
| Jan. | 117 | 90 | 112 | 86 | 115 | 118 | 105 | 170 | 115 | 113 |
| Feb. | 117 | 82 | 113 | 84 | 116 | 110 | 105 | 170 | 113 | 112 |
| Mar. | 115 | 79 | 112 | 81 | 116 | 114 | 104 | 170 | 113 | 112 |
| Apr. | 115 | 82 | 110 | 79 | 116 | 121 | 105 | 170 | 114 | 113 |
| May | 114 | 81 | 109 | 78 | 117 | 124 | 106 | 170 | 114 | 113 |
| June | 116 | 83 | 109 | 78 | 117 | 122 | 106 | 170 | 115 | 113 |
| July | 116 | 102 | 110 | 78 | 118 | 124 | 107 | 170 | 116 | 114 |
| Aug. | 119 | 107 | 111 | 78 | 118 | 119 | 107 | 170 | 117 | 114 |
| Sept. | 119 | 109 | 112 | 78 | 117 | 112 | 108 | 170 | 115 | 114 |
| Oct. | 117 | 113 | 113 | 78 | 118 | 111 | 108 | 170 | 115 | 114 |
| Nov. | 114 | 111 | 113 | 78 | 118 | 116 | 108 | 170 | 115 | 114 |
| Dec. | 113 | 99 | 113 | 78 | 118 | 116 | 108 | 170 | 114 | 114 |
| 1953 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Jan. | 111 | 5/ | 112 | 5/ | 118 | 6/117 | 5/ | 5/ | 113 | 114 |
| Feb. | 108 | 5/ | 111 | 5/ | 118 | 6/116 | 5/ | 5/ | 111 | 113 |
| Mar. | 107 | 5/ | 110 | 5/ | 118 | 6/116 | 5/ | 5/ | 111 | 114 |
| Apr. | 107 | 5/ | 109 | 5/ | 118 | 6/115 | 5/ | 5/ | 111 | 114 |
| May | 109 | 5/ | 108 | 5/ | 118 | 6/115 | 5/ | 5/ | 112 | 114 |
| June | 111 | 5/ | 108 | 5/ | 119 | 6/122 | 5/ | 5/ | 114 | 114 |

1/ Includes only price of foods consumed at home.
2/ Includes chicken and fish.
3/ Includes butter.
4/ Excludes butter.
5/ Not available.
6/ Sub-indexes for fruits and vegetables no longer reported separately.

Bureau of Labor Statistics. Indexes for commodity groups prior to 1953 adjusted to 1947-49 base from the published series on 1935-39 base. The Consumer Price Index revision, beginning 1953, has been described in the Monthly Labor Review.

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1954 OUTLOOK ISSUE
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# THE National Food SITUATION

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NFS-66 BAE OCTOBER-DECEMBER 1953

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Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, October 22, 1953

## SUMMARY

Food supplies next year are likely to be about as large as in 1953, under normal weather conditions. Consumer demand for food will continue strong, so food consumption per capita and retail food prices are not expected to differ much from 1953 levels.

Contributing to the supply outlook for next year are the following factors: This year's crop output, part of which will be consumed in 1954, is a near-record. Food output next year will continue high if growing conditions are average. Marketings of meat animals and output of other livestock products in 1954 probably will be about at the high 1953 level. Feed supplies are plentiful. Large numbers of cattle are on farms and marketings next year probably will be close to the record of 1953. Farmers are expected to boost hog production and some increase in the supply of pork will begin to show up in retail stores in the latter part of the year. Output of dairy and poultry products are expected to be as high or higher than in 1953.

Food purchases for our Armed Forces probably will be no larger and possibly may be reduced next year, depending on the international situation. Export demand for out farm food products may decline further, principally because of larger wheat output in other countries this year.

Prospects for employment, consumer income, and income tax reduction indicate that as much purchasing power will be available in 1954 for food (and services demanded with food) as this year. This will maintain domestic civilian demand for food. Because supplies of some of the most sought after foods will be no larger, retail food prices are likely to continue near their present level, with some seasonal and commodity differences occurring.

In calendar 1954 we may expect increased consumption per person of margarine; shortening; frozen fruits, juices, and vegetables; sweetpotatoes; and chicken. Relatively little change from 1953 is indicated in next year's supply and per capita consumption rates for most other major foods, such as dairy products, fats and oils, vegetables, eggs, beef and veal, fresh and canned fruits. However, considerably reduced slaughter of hogs, sheep and lambs will cut back the consumption of lard, pork, lamb and mutton, especially in the first half of the year.

Continued -

Table 1.- Volume of farm marketings and home consumption and civilian per capita food consumption, 1935-39 average, 1947-52, and preliminary estimates for 1953, with percentage comparisons 1/

(Index numbers: 1947-49 = 100)

| Item | 1935-39 average | 1947 | 1948 | 1949 | 1950 | 1951 | 1952 | 1953 prel. 2/ | 1953 as a percentage of 1935-39 | 1953 as a percentage of 1952 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Food grains 3/ | 54 | 100 | 102 | 98 | 81 | 77 | 94 | 94 | 174 | 100 |
| Vegetables 4/ | 85 | 99 | 103 | 98 | 99 | 99 | 95 | 97 | 114 | 102 |
| Fruits and nuts 5/ | 81 | 103 | 99 | 98 | 99 | 107 | 102 | 100 | 123 | 98 |
| Sugar crops | 107 | 114 | 91 | 94 | 116 | 93 | 93 | 100 | 93 | 108 |
| Total food crops 6/ | 72 | 101 | 102 | 98 | 92 | 91 | 95 | 95 | 132 | 100 |
| Meat animals | 72 | 105 | 96 | 99 | 100 | 104 | 107 | 116 | 161 | 108 |
| Poultry and eggs | 64 | 99 | 96 | 105 | 111 | 118 | 123 | 124 | 194 | 101 |
| Dairy products | 88 | 101 | 98 | 101 | 101 | 99 | 100 | 103 | 117 | 103 |
| Total food livestock 7/ | 75 | 103 | 97 | 101 | 102 | 105 | 108 | 114 | 152 | 106 |
| Food marketings and home consumption | 74 | 102 | 98 | 100 | 100 | 102 | 105 | 109 | 147 | 104 |
| Marketings and home consumption of all farm commodities 8/ | 73 | 100 | 97 | 103 | 99 | 101 | 104 | 108 | 148 | 104 |
| Civilian per capita food consumption | 91 | 102 | 99 | 99 | 100 | 99 | 101 | 102 | 112 | 101 |

1/ Index of volume of farm marketings and home consumption supersedes the series on volume of agricultural production for sale and for farm home consumption. The index of per capita food consumption has been revised. 2/ Indexes for 1953 are based on calendar-year quantities estimated as of October 15. 3/ Wheat, rye, rice, and buckwheat. 4/ Truck crops for fresh use and processing, potatoes, sweetpotatoes, dry edible beans, dry field peas, and mung beans. 5/ Except peanuts. 6/ In addition to the crops listed above, includes peanuts, peppermint, popcorn, spearmint, and vegetables grown under glass. 7/ Also includes honey, but excludes turkey hatching eggs. 8/ Food and nonfood items.

Table 2.- Supply-utilization of agricultural food products, 1935-39 and 1947-49 averages, and 1947-53 1/

| Year | Production | Imports | Stock change 2/ | Total utilization | Food use | | Nonfood use 4/ | Commercial exports and shipments 5/ | | Department of Agriculture 6/ | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | Civilian | Military 3/ | | Food | Nonfood | Stock change 7/ | Deliveries | Net purchases for export |
| | | | | Section a. Percentage of total utilization in each year | | | | | | | | |
| 1935-39 | 94.0 | 8.2 | -2.2 | 100.0 | 67.9 | --- | 30.1 | 1.6 | 0.5 | -0.1 | --- | -0.1 |
| 1947-49 | 95.4 | 6.5 | -1.9 | 100.0 | 64.8 | 2.6 | 27.5 | 2.6 | .4 | .2 | 1.9 | 2.1 |
| 1947 | 92.0 | 6.0 | 2.0 | 100.0 | 64.6 | 2.3 | 27.5 | 3.0 | .3 | .1 | 2.2 | 2.3 |
| 1948 | 100.2 | 6.8 | -7.0 | 100.0 | 65.7 | 2.8 | 27.2 | 2.4 | .3 | -.1 | 1.7 | 1.6 |
| 1949 | 94.1 | 6.7 | -.8 | 100.0 | 64.2 | 2.7 | 28.0 | 2.3 | .5 | -.6 | 1.7 | 2.3 |
| 1950 | 94.4 | 6.9 | -1.3 | 100.0 | 65.3 | 1.4 | 28.5 | 2.5 | .7 | .2 | 1.4 | 1.6 |
| 1951 | 90.6 | 6.9 | 2.5 | 100.0 | 63.6 | 2.8 | 28.0 | 3.8 | .8 | -.7 | 1.7 | 1.0 |
| 1952 8/ | 95.2 | 6.9 | -2.1 | 100.0 | 65.8 | 2.0 | 26.6 | 4.4 | .9 | -.1 | .4 | .3 |
| 1953 8/ | 95.3 | 6.7 | -2.0 | 100.0 | 66.3 | 1.9 | 26.4 | 3.8 | .8 | .4 | .4 | .8 |
| | | | | Section b. Percentage of total utilization in 1947-49 | | | | | | | | |
| 1935-39 | 71.6 | 6.2 | -1.6 | 76.2 | 51.7 | --- | 23.0 | 1.2 | .4 | -.1 | --- | -.1 |
| 1947-49 | 95.4 | 6.5 | -1.9 | 100.0 | 64.8 | 2.6 | 27.5 | 2.6 | .4 | .2 | 1.9 | 2.1 |
| 1947 | 93.6 | 6.1 | 2.0 | 101.7 | 65.7 | 2.3 | 28.0 | 3.1 | .3 | .1 | 2.2 | 2.3 |
| 1948 | 97.6 | 6.6 | -6.8 | 97.4 | 64.0 | 2.7 | 26.5 | 2.4 | .3 | -.1 | 1.6 | 1.5 |
| 1949 | 94.9 | 6.8 | -.8 | 100.9 | 64.8 | 2.7 | 28.1 | 2.4 | .5 | .6 | 1.8 | 2.4 |
| 1950 | 95.8 | 7.0 | -1.4 | 101.4 | 66.2 | 1.4 | 29.0 | 2.5 | .7 | .2 | 1.4 | 1.6 |
| 1951 | 94.5 | 7.2 | 2.6 | 104.3 | 66.3 | 2.9 | 29.2 | 4.0 | .8 | -.7 | 1.8 | 1.1 |
| 1952 8/ | 99.2 | 7.2 | -2.2 | 104.2 | 68.6 | 2.1 | 27.8 | 4.5 | .9 | -.1 | .4 | .3 |
| 1953 8/ | 100.5 | 7.1 | -2.2 | 105.4 | 69.9 | 2.0 | 27.9 | 4.0 | .8 | .4 | .4 | .8 |

1/ These data replace the index of total food utilization. That index traced only the quantities of farm products used for food. This new index covers the supply and utilization of the total amount of all agricultural products having food uses, including their nonfood uses. The percentage distribution for each year was developed from quantitative data on supplies and use of the unprocessed farm products and of processed commodities by multiplying quantities by average prices in 1947-49. Values of processed items for the several categories were adjusted back to values in terms of farm prices. The lower section of the table shows the supply-utilization in each year expressed as percentage of total utilization in 1947-49. 2/ Negatives indicate net increases in stocks from the beginning to the end of the year; positives signify net withdrawals from stocks. 3/ Includes procurement for civilian feeding in areas occupied by our Armed Forces. 4/ Includes use for seed, feed, industrial alcohol, alcoholic beverages, etc., and some waste and loss at farm level. Feed use makes up approximately 80 percent of this category. 5/ Excludes deliveries by the Department of Agriculture. 6/ Deliveries by the Department of Agriculture were for lend-lease, relief, and purchases for foreign governments, except for meat transactions in the drought years. Net purchases represent quantities withdrawn from commercial channels while deliveries represent shipments out of the country; the difference between the two measures changes in the Department's stocks. 7/ Negatives indicate net reductions in stocks; positives signify increases. 8/ Preliminary.

For the next few months, changes from the food situation of last fall and early winter include larger supplies of fresh fruits, potatoes, sweetpotatoes, and beef, and smaller supplies of processed fruits and juices, fishery products and pork. Retail food prices probably will continue a little below the level of a year earlier for several months.

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## RETAIL FOOD PRICES

Retail food prices were relatively stable during the late spring and summer at a level slightly lower than a year earlier. Prospects for the remainder of the year are that the general level of food prices may shade downward seasonally as supplies of some livestock products increase, and will be somewhat lower than in the fourth quarter of 1952. Although food supplies will be large this fall, the continued high level of income to consumers will maintain demand sufficiently strong to keep retail food prices fairly stable.

For the year 1954 as a whole, retail food prices are expected to average close to this year's level. Food supplies anticipated for next year will be about as large as in 1953. With no marked change in prospect for consumer income, the demand for food is likely to continue strong. The relative stickiness in food processing and marketing costs will also tend to maintain retail food prices.

The general economic outlook for 1954 points to a continuation of high employment and consumer income, not much different from that of 1953. Depending largely on developments in the international situation, expenditures by the Federal Government next year can be expected to average a little lower than this year. However, a continued rise in expenditures by State and local governments for schools, highways, and other public construction would be an offsetting factor. With the nation's economy already geared to high production, some evidence now available indicates that business expenditures for new plant and equipment in 1954 may be somewhat below the record for 1953. Even if there is some easing from record levels in 1953 in economic activity, continued high levels of employment and wage rates may well result in consumer incomes available for spending about as large as in 1953, particularly in view of the income tax reduction scheduled for next January 1. Consequently, consumer buying in 1954 should hold up well even though purchases of some consumer durable goods decline somewhat from present levels. Consumer demand for food should remain fairly close to that of 1953.

Table 3.- Apparent civilian per capita consumption of major food commodities, primary distribution weight, calendar years, 1935-39 and 1947-49 averages, 1951, 1952, and estimates for 1953, with percentage comparisons 1/

| Commodity | Average 1935-39 | Average 1947-49 | 1951 | 1952 | 1953 :Preliminary: | 1953 as a percentage of | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | 1935-39 | 1947-49 | 1952 |
| | Pounds | Pounds | Pounds | Pounds | Pounds | Percent | Percent | Percent |
| Meats (carcass weight) - Total | 125.3 | 146.4 | 135.8 | 144.0 | 151 | 120 | 103 | 105 |
| Beef | 54.8 | 64.6 | 55.2 | 61.2 | 75 | 137 | 116 | 123 |
| Veal | 8.1 | 9.6 | 6.6 | 7.1 | 9.3 | 115 | 97 | 131 |
| Lamb and mutton | 6.7 | 4.8 | 3.4 | 4.1 | 4.4 | 66 | 92 | 107 |
| Pork (excluding lard) | 55.7 | 67.4 | 70.6 | 71.6 | 63 | 113 | 93 | 88 |
| Fish (edible weight) - Total | 10.9 | 10.3 | 11.2 | 11.0 | 10.8 | 99 | 105 | 98 |
| Fresh and frozen | 5.3 | 5.9 | 6.6 | 6.3 | 2/ | --- | --- | --- |
| Canned 3/ | 4.8 | 3.8 | 4.0 | 4.1 | 2/ | --- | --- | --- |
| Cured | .8 | .6 | .6 | .6 | 2/ | --- | --- | --- |
| Poultry products | | | | | | | | |
| Eggs - number | 296 | 380 | 395 | 407 | 397 | 134 | 104 | 98 |
| Chicken (eviscerated) | 13.2 | 18.5 | 22.2 | 23.0 | 22.7 | 172 | 123 | 99 |
| Turkey (eviscerated) | 2.1 | 3.2 | 4.3 | 4.4 | 4.2 | 200 | 131 | 95 |
| Dairy products | | | | | | | | |
| Total milk fat solids | 31.2 | 29.2 | 28.0 | 27.3 | 27.0 | 87 | 92 | 99 |
| Total nonfat milk solids | 39.6 | 46.6 | 46.6 | 47.3 | 47.0 | 119 | 101 | 99 |
| Cheese | 5.5 | 6.9 | 7.1 | 7.5 | 7.7 | 140 | 112 | 103 |
| Condensed and evaporated milk | 16.5 | 19.8 | 18.0 | 17.4 | 17.5 | 106 | 88 | 101 |
| Fluid milk and cream | 330 | 359 | 352 | 352 | 352 | 107 | 98 | 100 |
| Ice cream (product weight) | 9.8 | 18.5 | 17.1 | 17.6 | 16.8 | 171 | 91 | 95 |
| Fats and oils - Total, fat content 4/ | 44.7 | 41.8 | 41.6 | 43.9 | 43.9 | 98 | 105 | 100 |
| Butter, farm and factory (actual weight) | 16.8 | 10.5 | 9.5 | 8.6 | 8.7 | 52 | 83 | 101 |
| Margarine (actual weight) | 2.8 | 5.5 | 6.5 | 7.8 | 8.2 | 293 | 149 | 105 |
| Lard | 10.9 | 12.2 | 12.1 | 11.8 | 11.3 | 104 | 93 | 96 |
| Shortening | 11.6 | 9.5 | 8.9 | 10.0 | 10.5 | 91 | 111 | 105 |
| Other edible fats and oils | 6.4 | 7.2 | 7.6 | 8.8 | 8.5 | 133 | 118 | 97 |
| Fruits | | | | | | | | |
| Fresh - Total | 137.1 | 130.3 | 114.4 | 110.8 | 109.3 | 80 | 84 | 99 |
| Citrus | 48.5 | 53.9 | 44.4 | 43.6 | 42.7 | 88 | 79 | 98 |
| Apples (commercial) | 30.2 | 25.2 | 25.4 | 21.1 | 21.1 | 70 | 84 | 100 |
| Other (excluding melons) | 58.4 | 51.2 | 44.6 | 46.1 | 45.5 | 78 | 89 | 99 |
| Processed: | | | | | | | | |
| Canned fruit | 14.8 | 18.1 | 18.6 | 20.3 | 20.0 | 135 | 110 | 99 |
| Canned juices | 3.8 | 16.0 | 14.6 | 13.9 | 12.1 | 318 | 76 | 87 |
| Frozen (including juices) | .8 | 3.2 | 4.7 | 6.5 | 6.7 | 838 | 209 | 103 |
| Dried | 5.7 | 4.2 | 4.3 | 4.4 | 4.4 | 77 | 105 | 100 |
| Vegetables | | | | | | | | |
| Fresh (total commercial) 5/ | 139 | 150 | 143 | 142 | 144 | 104 | 96 | 101 |
| Canned | 29.6 | 38.5 | 41.2 | 41.3 | 41.3 | 140 | 107 | 100 |
| Frozen | 6/.4 | 2.9 | 4.1 | 5.1 | 5.4 | 1,350 | 186 | 106 |
| Potatoes | 128 | 112 | 108 | 100 | 108 | 84 | 96 | 108 |
| Sweetpotatoes | 21.3 | 12.3 | 7.2 | 6.6 | 7.6 | 36 | 62 | 115 |
| Dry edible beans | 8.7 | 6.6 | 8.0 | 8.4 | 8.4 | 97 | 127 | 100 |
| Dry field peas | .6 | .6 | .7 | .6 | .7 | 117 | 117 | 117 |
| Sugar, refined | 96.7 | 93.5 | 96.1 | 96.1 | 7/95 | 98 | 102 | 99 |
| Cereal food products | | | | | | | | |
| Corn products: | | | | | | | | |
| Cornmeal | 22.8 | 13.4 | 12.6 | 12.3 | 12.2 | 54 | 91 | 99 |
| Corn sirup | 7.6 | 9.8 | 8.9 | 8.6 | 8.7 | 114 | 89 | 101 |
| Cornstarch | 1.3 | 1.8 | 1.9 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 138 | 100 | 100 |
| Corn sugar | 2.7 | 4.2 | 4.0 | 3.9 | 4.0 | 148 | 95 | 103 |
| Breakfast cereals | 1.6 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 94 | 100 | 100 |
| Hominy | 1.4 | 2.8 | 2.7 | 2.6 | 2.6 | 186 | 93 | 100 |
| Oat food products | 3.8 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 89 | 100 | 100 |
| Barley food products 8/ | 1.4 | 1.6 | 1.4 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 93 | 81 | 100 |
| Wheat: | | | | | | | | |
| Flour 9/ | 157 | 135 | 132 | 130 | 129 | 82 | 96 | 99 |
| Breakfast cereals | 3.3 | 3.1 | 3.1 | 3.1 | 3.1 | 94 | 100 | 100 |
| Rye flour | 2.2 | 1.4 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 68 | 107 | 100 |
| Rice, milled | 5.7 | 4.8 | 5.7 | 5.2 | 5.8 | 102 | 121 | 112 |
| Beverages | | | | | | | | |
| Coffee 10/ | 13.9 | 18.0 | 16.3 | 16.5 | 16.5 | 119 | 92 | 100 |
| Tea | .66 | .57 | .64 | .64 | .65 | 98 | 114 | 102 |
| Cocoa beans | 4.3 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 93 | 100 | 100 |
| Peanuts (shelled) | 4.3 | 4.4 | 4.5 | 4.4 | 4.4 | 102 | 100 | 100 |

Population estimates used to obtain per capita consumption figures are official Census estimates of total population adjusted for underenumeration and for military personnel not eating out of civilian supplies.

1/ Quantity in pounds except for eggs which are stated in number. Data on calendar year basis except for dried fruits which are on pack year basis; fresh citrus fruits, dry field peas, and peanuts on a crop year basis; rice on August 1 year; and canned fruit and vegetables on pack year basis in 1935-39. All years begin in year indicated except for fresh citrus, which begins in October of the previous year and rice which begins in August of previous year. 2/ Not available. 3/ Excludes canned food products containing small quantities of fish, such as clam chowder, etc. 4/ Computed from unrounded data. 5/ Completely revised series covers total commercial production for sale as fresh, both for shipment to distant markets and for local markets. Excludes farm garden output for farm household use. 6/ Average 1937-39. Data prior to 1937 are not available. 7/ Based on the U. S. domestic requirements of 8,100 thousand tons (raw value) as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture. 8/ Barley used for food products in terms of malt equivalent. 9/ Includes white, whole wheat, and semolina flour. 10/ Green bean basis.

Military and export takings of food from domestic supplies next year probably will be smaller than in 1953. However, the anticipated reduction will have no serious impact on the general level of retail food prices in 1954. The quantity of food purchased by military agencies for troop use is not expected to reach this year's total, unless the international situation deteriorates. Food exports, on the other hand, may decline further because of the probable weakening of the foreign demand for wheat, the largest component of total food exports in recent years. World supplies of wheat will continue large throughout most of 1954 because of the larger output in major exporting and importing countries this year.

## NUTRITIONAL OUTLOOK 1/

With civilian consumption of food per person in 1954 likely to be close to this year's rate, and no significant change in prospect in the pattern of food consumption, the nutritional content of next year's food supply is expected to be about equal to that of 1953. A slight decline in thiamine is likely in view of the anticipated small reduction in pork consumption.

Table 4.- Nutrients available for civilian consumption per capita per day, 1935-39 and 1947-49 averages, 1951, 1952, and preliminary estimates for 1953, with percentage comparisons 1/

(Completely revised series)

| | Unit | Average 1935-39 | Average 1947-49 | 1951 | 1952 | 1953 | 1953 as a percentage of 1935-39 | 1953 as a percentage of 1947-49 | 1953 as a percentage of 1952 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Food energy | Cal. | 3,270 | 3,230 | 3,210 | 3,240 | 3,200 | 98 | 99 | 99 |
| Protein | Grams | 90 | 94 | 94 | 96 | 96 | 107 | 102 | 100 |
| Fat | Grams | 132 | 140 | 140 | 145 | 141 | 107 | 101 | 97 |
| Carbohydrate | Grams | 440 | 406 | 402 | 398 | 395 | 90 | 97 | 99 |
| Calcium | Grams | .93 | 1.03 | 1.03 | 1.04 | 1.04 | 112 | 101 | 100 |
| Iron | Mg. | 14.4 | 17.2 | 16.9 | 17.1 | 17.2 | 119 | 100 | 101 |
| Vitamin A value | I.U. | 8,200 | 8,300 | 7,700 | 7,800 | 7,800 | 95 | 94 | 100 |
| Thiamine | Mg. | 1.45 | 1.90 | 1.91 | 1.92 | 1.87 | 129 | 98 | 97 |
| Riboflavin | Mg. | 1.88 | 2.33 | 2.31 | 2.34 | 2.34 | 124 | 100 | 100 |
| Niacin | Mg. | 15.8 | 19.5 | 19.3 | 19.7 | 19.9 | 126 | 102 | 101 |
| Folic acid | Mg. | .132 | .133 | .131 | .133 | .134 | 102 | 101 | 101 |
| Ascorbic acid | Mg. | 118 | 121 | 114 | 114 | 115 | 97 | 95 | 101 |

1/ Data computed by the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics on the basis of estimates of apparent per capita consumption (retail basis), including estimates of produce of rural and urban home gardens, supplied by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. No deduction has been made in nutrient estimates for loss or waste of food in the home or for destruction or loss of nutrients during the preparation of food. Data for iron, thiamine, riboflavin, and niacin include the amounts of those nutrients added to prepared cereals, white flour and bread.

The marked gains in the nutritional quality of civilian diets made between the prewar period (1935-39) and the immediate postwar years (1947-49) have been maintained over the past three years for all nutrients except vitamin A and ascorbic acid. The reduction in vitamin A which occurred between 1950 and 1951 and continued into 1953 was small and due mainly to

1/ Prepared by the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics.

the decline in the consumption of sweetpotatoes. However, with the 1953 sweetpotato crop substantially larger than the small 1952 crop, some increase in civilian per capita consumption of sweetpotatoes is in prospect during the coming year. The lower amounts of ascorbic acid for the years 1951 to 1953 can be attributed almost equally to lower consumption rates for fresh and processed tomatoes, the fresh leafy, green and yellow vegetables, and potatoes as compared with consumption during 1947-49. No change in the supply of ascorbic acid is anticipated for 1954, as compared with this year.

## COMMODITY REVIEWS

### Meat

The total output of meat during the last quarter of 1953 will continue larger than a year ago, with increases in beef more than offsetting declines in pork. However, civilian consumption of meat per person probably will differ little from the high rate of the fourth quarter of 1952 because of the increase in population. The level of retail meat prices probably will shade downward because of seasonally heavy marketings of meat animals, with most of the decline in pork prices. Prices of beef, particularly the lower grades, will be significantly lower than in the fall and early winter of 1952-53.

Although civilians may consume no more meat per person this fall than last, consumption was substantially higher earlier in 1953. As a result, the 1953 total is estimated at 151 pounds, 7 pounds above that of last year and one of the highest in over 40 years of record.

Beef production and consumption during October-December will continue large. Unless the marketing of cattle for slaughter is greater than now anticipated, however, the increase over a year earlier probably will not be quite as large as during the first 9 months of 1953. Department of Agriculture purchases of beef for delivery in 1954 will tend to lessen the increase over last fall in the market supplies available to civilians. These purchase programs will result in firmer prices of lower quality beef, but prices will still be relatively low. Supplies of this kind of beef are unusually large this fall. Since fed cattle have been marketed for slaughter at a faster rate thus far this year than during the comparable part of 1952 and feedlots have refilled at a slower rate, supplies of Prime and Choice beef probably will decline to or fall below those of last October-December. Retail prices for this quality of beef seem likely to hold up well.

Supplies of veal this fall are expected to be sufficiently large to permit civilians to have almost a fourth more than a year earlier. This increase, however, is not as large as the gain over 1952 earlier this year. For 1953 as a whole, civilian consumption of veal may average 9.3 pounds per person, almost a third larger than last year.

Pork consumption per capita this fall will be the smallest since the 1930's. Hog slaughter and pork production during the remaining months of 1953 will continue significantly below a year earlier. The spring pig crop, which will largely govern the volume of pork produced during the next few months, was 10 percent smaller this year than last. Moreover, marketing of the spring crop began earlier this year; with many lighter-weight hogs sent to slaughter by August 1. Thus, the chances are that pork production will be spread more evenly over the season than last year and the retail price decline for pork this fall may be less than seasonal. Pork prices so far this year have been well above a year earlier and may continue so this fall.

Pig crops have been decreasing for nearly 2 years. As a result, people have eaten less pork in each quarter of this year than last. For 1953 as a whole, pork consumption per person is estimated at 63 pounds, 9 pounds less than in 1952 and the smallest in a decade.

Sheep and lamb slaughter during the remaining weeks of 1953 will probably show less increase than last year, and may total only a little more than in the same period in 1952. However, lamb and mutton production earlier in the year was greater than last year, so a moderate increase in consumption for the year as a whole appears assured.

Lamb prices have fluctuated rather widely this summer in response to varying slaughter supplies of lambs and their principal competitors, beef and veal. Prospects for this fall are that retail prices of lamb probably will average moderately lower than in the summer.

Exports of meat may be a little larger this year than last because of the increase in the amount of beef shipped abroad. Most of the increase in exports will result from financial assistance by the Foreign Operations Administration.

Less beef is being imported this year but more pork. However, the quantities are relatively insignificant in the total meat supply. The import pattern in 1953 reflects the higher level of wholesale prices of pork and lower prices for beef in the United States this year than last.

Prospects for 1954 are for a continued large supply of meat to be produced and consumed. Beef supplies will continue at a high level, but pork supplies may be a little smaller than in 1953. Total meat output next year will not differ greatly from that of this year, barring adverse conditions that might cause a large expansion in cattle marketings.

Civilian consumption of meat per person in 1954 is expected to average a little below the 1953 rate of 151 pounds. During the first half of next year per capita consumption probably will be smaller than that during the same part of 1953, but in the last half it may be equal to or larger than the comparable rate of this year. Retail prices of meat are expected to average close to those of 1953.

The slaughter rate for cattle and calves seems likely to remain high in 1954. Production of beef may be slightly lower than in 1953 due to lighter average slaughter weights. The 1954 total probably will include less of the better grades but about as much of the medium and lower grades of beef as this year, since marketings of grain fed cattle in the winter and spring are not expected to reach the level of the first half of 1953.

Veal output in 1954 will be as large or larger than this year. A sizable volume of calf marketings and slaughter will mark the next few years of big cattle production.

Production of lamb and mutton probably will be somewhat smaller than in 1953. Sheep numbers on farms apparently are being reduced somewhat this year. This would lower the per capita consumption of lamb and mutton next year, perhaps as much as 5 to 10 percent.

Pork supplies will be relatively small until the fall of 1954. In the first part of next year they are expected to be even below the small supply during the first half of 1953. With farrowings expected to be increasing in the latter part of this fall and the pig crop next spring expected to be 5 to 10 percent larger than a year earlier, supplies will rise to the corresponding 1953 level sometime around mid-year. By next fall, when hog marketings will again expand seasonally, pork may be more plentiful than this fall. However, pork consumption for all of 1954 may be a little smaller than this year, and at the lowest rate since 1938.

With little change in meat supplies or in consumer demand indicated for next year, retail prices of meat may average generally about the same as this year. While this is the general outlook for retail meat prices in 1954, differences will occur between meats and between seasons. Beef prices will again average lower than in the last few years, and pork higher. A wide spread between prices of top and intermediate grades of beef will again prevail in 1954. The likelihood is for prices of pork to be relatively higher early in the year than in the last few months of the year when pork supplies will be increasing seasonally.

Meat exports in 1954 probably will be close to this year's level, but imports may not exceed those of 1953. In general, imports are expected to continue to make up a very small part of our total meat supply--less than 2 percent.

Fishery Products 1/

Because of reduced production and frozen fish imports thus far in 1953 compared with the high level of a year earlier, supplies of both the fresh and the processed fishery products for marketing during the remainder of this year probably will be somewhat smaller than in the same part of 1952. Despite the smaller supplies, retail prices of fish and shellfish as a group may not average quite as high as in the last quarter of 1952 partly because of the lower prices for beef.

1/ Prepared in cooperation with the Fish and Wildlife Service of the U. S. Department of the Interior.

Less fresh and frozen fishery products will be available for distribution this fall than last, when supplies of frozen fish were unusually large. Commercial fishing operations will decline seasonally as the year comes to a close, and the volume of landings probably will not exceed that of a year earlier unless favorable weather permits greater-than-usual fishing activity this fall. Cold-storage stocks of fishery products on October 1 were 10 percent smaller than the record level of a year earlier. Imports of fresh and frozen fish and shellfish during the remainder of the year are not expected to equal the very large volume of the same months in 1952, partly because wholesale prices are not likely to be as favorable this year.

Supplies of canned fishery products in the remaining weeks of 1953 will be below those of a year earlier because of the smaller packs of canned salmon and Maine sardines and of the small pack of California sardines (pilchards) in prospect. The decline in the packs of these three items will, to some extent, be offset by the expected increase over last year in the output of canned tuna and the heavier volume of canned fish imports.

Prospects for 1954 are that supplies of fishery products probably will be no larger than this year. The total volume of these commodities available for distribution during the first half of next year may not reach the January-June 1953 level, particularly for canned fish. However, depending on the out-turn of the 1954 canned fish pack, the supply of all fishery products during the latter half of the year may be slightly larger than in July-December 1953. Civilian per capita consumption of fresh and processed fish and shellfish next year is expected to total close to this year's rate. With supplies of livestock products likely to be plentiful, retail prices of fishery products in 1954 may average a little lower than for this year. However, prices for some items, especially among the canned commodities, will average somewhat higher.

Imports of fresh and processed fish and shellfish, particularly of the frozen and the canned commodities, probably will be at least as large next year as this year. Because of the relatively smaller supply of canned fish indicated for the coming winter and spring period compared with a year earlier, the United States may be a rather attractive market during those months for imported canned fishery products. Exports, on the other hand may not be as large as in 1953 partly because of the relatively small exportable supplies of canned salmon, California sardines (pilchards), and anchovies which are popular in foreign markets, and partly because of the reluctance of many foreign countries to use any part of their dollar resources for the purchase of canned fishery products.

Poultry and Eggs

Although production of eggs and poultry in 1953 rose slightly above 1952 to a record high, the U. S. population increased at an even faster rate. As a result, the annual per capita supplies available for civilian consumption were not up to the level of the previous year. In the last half of 1953, per capita egg consumption will be about at 1952 levels, broiler consumption higher, and consumption of other chickens and turkeys lower.

In 1954, production of eggs and broilers is likely to expand enough to result in some increase in per capita consumption of those commodities.

Since mid-year retail egg prices have been close to a year earlier. Production since mid-year has been larger than in 1952. Prices in October are near their seasonal peak and will decline in the months between now and January or February. A slight increase in egg production over the year before is likely in the spring. Both per capita consumption and storage, particularly of frozen eggs, are likely to increase. Prices are expected to be only a little lower than last spring and for at least the first 3 quarters of the year the seasonal supply and price pattern is likely to be much like 1953. Later in 1954, a further increase in egg production per layer will raise egg output above a year earlier. At that time egg prices may be noticeably lower than the corresponding 1953 price, particularly if production includes output from a much greater number of new pullets than are available this fall.

Chicken meat, which is supplied from specialized broilers and also from chickens produced as a byproduct of egg production, will be available in slightly larger quantity in 1954 than in 1953. Most of the increase will come in specialized broilers, although there also will be slightly more young farm chickens if farmers raise more chickens in response to the expected favorable springtime egg prices.

Chicken prices in 1954 are not likely to change much from 1953 levels. An increasing proportion of the poultry meat supply is now reaching the consumer after considerable processing. Chickens for many of these processed forms, such as quick-frozen chicken parts, canned chicken, and chicken pies, are bought during periods of low prices. Prices for the processed products are relatively stable throughout the year.

About half of the 1953 turkey crop has not yet been marketed. To date, most classes of turkeys have not been priced above last year's levels, despite an 8 percent reduction in the number of turkeys raised this year and a somewhat larger reduction in the number of pounds to be produced. The supply in 1953 is smaller, even after allowing for the diversion of 6 percent of the 1952 crop under the Government's surplus-removal program. The relatively large stocks of turkey in cold storage October 1--68 million pounds, except for last year the largest on record for the date--are a factor holding down turkey prices.

Dairy Products

Total supplies of dairy products in 1954 will be record large. Milk output is not expected to be significantly different from the 118-119 billion pounds estimated for 1953. Total carryover stocks at the beginning of next year will be at a record level. Civilian consumption of the individual dairy products may be no greater than in 1953. In the current marketing year the Department is buying about 5 percent of the milk output (in the forms of butter, American cheese, and nonfat dry milk) under

the price-support program. The level of retail prices of dairy products in 1954 will be strongly influenced by the level of price supports established for milk and butterfat for the year beginning next April.

The number of cows on farms may continue to increase next year and with average weather, production next year would be about the same as this year. The sharp drop last year both in beef cattle prices and in the value of milk animals for slaughter were important factors in reversing the downward trend in milk cow numbers from 1945 to 1952.

Unusually heavy stocks of dairy products at the end of 1953 will be an important factor in the larger supplies of dairy products in prospect for 1954. Normally, almost all of the supplies for any year come from milk produced during that year. Stocks of manufactured dairy products generally are built up during the flush production season for milk, and are marketed in fall and winter when production is off seasonally. Thus stocks on January 1 are ordinarily relatively low. At the end of 1953, stocks--consisting largely of butter, cheese, and nonfat dry milk acquired by the Department of Agriculture under price-support operations--may be equivalent to about 9.0 billion pounds of milk. This would be almost 4 billion pounds above a year earlier and about 7 percent of the prospective supply for 1954, compared with 3 to 4 percent in the past 5 years. Milk production next year is expected to be about the same as in 1953. As a result, total supplies of dairy products in 1954 are likely to exceed those of 1953 by the equivalent of about 3 billion pounds of milk.

If retail prices remain at the level of 1953, the pattern of milk utilization and civilian per capita consumption of dairy products may differ little in 1954 from this year. Per capita use of fluid milk and cream next year probably will be about the same as in 1953. With a slightly larger civilian population, the total quantity of milk required for fluid consumption would be larger. If milk production is close to this year's level, there would be nearly a billion pounds less milk for the manufactured dairy products--the equivalent of about 50 million pounds of butter or 100 million pounds of cheese. On the other hand, if retail prices should show some decline, some increase in civilian consumption of dairy products probably would occur. This would bring consumption more in line with production, and would also result in some change in the pattern of milk utilization.

Supplies of milk and dairy products for consumption this fall are somewhat larger than a year earlier. Milk production is not expected to reach the unusually high level of last fall. However, stocks of dairy products--including the substantial quantities owned by the Department of Agriculture--are sufficiently large to more than offset any smaller production this fall than last.

Civilian per capita consumption rates for the major dairy products during October-December this year are expected to be close to those of a year earlier. Retail prices this fall, although up seasonally, are expected to average lower than in the same part of 1952.

Fats and Oils

Large supplies of food fats and oils are in prospect for this fall and winter. Total stocks on October 1, the beginning of the current marketing year, were much larger than a year ago, and production will reach its seasonal peak during the coming months. Lard is the only major item for which smaller supplies are indicated than last fall and winter. Civilian consumption of food fats and oils per person during the coming months is expected to be at least as high as last year. Retail prices of most food fats and oils except butter probably will be at least as high this fall and winter as a year earlier, since some strengthening in the primary prices of vegetable oils appears likely. Butter prices are below last year's level and, although some seasonal increase is now taking place, probably will average lower than in late 1952 and early 1953.

Supplies of food fats and oils in the 1953-54 marketing year which began on October 1 probably will be record large. Record stocks of vegetable oils and butter on that date will more than offset the considerable drop expected in output. Of the total stocks available on October 1, about 70 percent was owned by the Department of Agriculture, having been acquired under price-support operations. From October 1952 through September 1953, the Department acquired about 875 million pounds of cottonseed oil (about half of the 1952-53 output) and about 360 million pounds of butter (approximately a fourth of production in 1952-53).

Larger supplies of butter will be available from October 1953 through September 1954 than a year earlier. The output decline anticipated for butter can be offset by drawing on the very large stocks that were on hand on October 1. Most of these stocks are owned by the Department of Agriculture. This butter has been available for sale to distributors at slightly above support prices. The retail price of butter in 1954 will to a large extent be influenced by the price-support level during the year beginning next April 1.

Supplies of lard in 1953-54 may be down about 10 percent from the 2,700 million pounds of the year before and the smallest since 1947. Stocks are smaller than last year and output will be down. The 1953 spring pig crop, which is currently being marketed, was 10 percent less than a year earlier, and farmers' intentions on June 1, 1953 indicated a 5 percent smaller fall pig crop this year than last. Because of the favorable hog-corn ratio in recent months, the fall crop may be larger than indicated by intentions. With supplies smaller and demand likely to be strong, retail prices of lard should average substantially above the 1952-53 level.

Production of edible vegetable oils used in shortening, margarine, and other food products such as cooking and salad oils, probably will be about 5 percent less than the year before. However, with record stocks available at the beginning of the year, total supplies may be record large and more than sufficient to meet all anticipated domestic and export needs.

Consumption of food fats and oils by civilians in 1954 may not differ much from the previous 2 years when it ranged between 43.5-44.0 pounds (fat content) per person. Use of margarine probably will continue its upward trend in 1954, although the extent of the increase will to a considerable

degree depend on policy set by the Department of Agriculture for disposing of its present large holdings of butter and for supporting butter prices in 1954-55. More shortening and less lard probably will be consumed in 1954, reflecting reduced supplies of lard and plentiful quantities of oils for use in shortening. Retail prices of vegetable oil products, through at least next spring, should be no lower than a year earlier.

Fruit

Total supplies of fresh and processed fruits during late 1953 and early 1954 probably will not be greatly different from those of a year earlier, but this will vary considerably for the individual items. Supplies of most fresh fruits are expected to be somewhat larger this fall and winter, while those of a number of processed items will tend to be smaller, especially the canned and frozen citrus fruits and juices until supplies from the 1953-54 packs become available in volume about the first of the year. With a record crop of pecans, supplies of tree nuts will continue in large supply.

More fresh apples, pears, and cranberries will be available this fall and winter than a year earlier. Less fresh grapes than usual will be available as a result of a smaller crop this year and the smaller volume of grapes placed in storage for after-season sale. Retail prices for pears and cranberries are expected to average lower during late 1953 and early 1954 than in this time of 1952-53, but those of grapes are expected to average higher. Prices for apples also probably will average higher this fall than last. However, apples for fresh use apparently are being marketed at a slower rate than last fall. Supplies this winter and spring may be larger; retail prices may not differ much from those of a year earlier.

Prospects are favorable for larger supplies of oranges and grapefruit this fall and winter than a year earlier. The new crops starting to market this fall are larger in Florida, Arizona and also Texas, where production is again increasing following two very short crops resulting from freeze damage to groves in 1949 and 1951. Supplies of California Navel oranges are indicated to be 13 percent smaller than in 1952-53, but those of lemons may be larger. Retail prices for fresh oranges are likely to be about as high as in 1952-53, partly as a result of expected strong demand for oranges for processing into canned and frozen juice. Prices for fresh grapefruit probably will be lower.

Imports of fresh apples, most of which usually come from Canada, may not be much larger in 1953-54 than a year earlier. Receipts of bananas from abroad probably will be about as large next year as in 1953. Per capita consumption of bananas in this country is exceeded only by that of fresh apples and oranges.

Total supplies of tree nuts probably will be about equal to the large quantities available in 1952-53. Among the domestic-grown nuts, supplies of pecans will be record in volume, and those of almonds will be moderately larger than in 1952-53. There will be fewer walnuts and filberts.

Imported tree nuts, usually comprised largely of Brazil nuts and cashhews, may be about the same in volume as in 1952-53. Per capita consumption of all tree nuts during the current marketing year is expected to be close to the 1.6 pounds (shelled basis) rate of recent years.

About as much canned fruit will be available for consumption in 1953-54 as a year earlier. Smaller carryover stocks will be about offset by an increase in this year's pack. Among the completed 1953-54 packs, that of apricots is larger than last year's, the output of canned sour cherries is slightly smaller, and that of sweet cherries considerably smaller. Increased production is expected for canned peaches, fruit cocktail, and cranberries. Some expansion in receipts of canned pineapple from abroad seems probable, since current indications point to a large pack of pineapples in Hawaii, this year. Per capita consumption of canned fruits probably will continue at the 1952 rate of approximately 20 pounds. In general, retail prices probably will not differ greatly from those of 1952-53.

With stocks of canned citrus juices from the 1952-53 pack much smaller than those of a year ago, supplies available for consumption will continue low until canned juice from the new pack becomes available in volume by the end of the year. Output of canned juice from the new citrus crop may be a little larger than that from the last year's crop. Some increase in receipts of canned pineapple juice from Hawaii seems probable in 1953-54. However, total supplies of canned fruit juices may be about the same in 1954 as in 1953. Production of canned fruit juices in 1952-53 was moderately smaller than in the preceding year mainly because of a reduction in hot-pack canned concentrated citrus juices.

In general, supplies of frozen fruits and fruit juices will be larger in 1953-54 than a year earlier. During the fall season, less frozen orange juice concentrate will be available than last fall because of the considerably smaller stocks this October 1 than a year earlier. However, with a record pack of frozen orange juice in prospect for 1953-54, marketings will expand in late fall. Supplies of frozen strawberries and cherries are larger than a year ago. Production of frozen strawberries this year is expected to set a new record.

Although output of dried fruits in 1953-54 is expected to be somewhat smaller than a year earlier, supplies will continue larger than anticpated domestic consumption, and a sizable quantity will again be available for export or carryover. Mainly because of a considerable reduction in the output of raisins, total production of dried fruits in 1953-54 is expected to be moderately smaller than a year earlier. Increases in prunes, apricots, and peaches partly offset the decline in raisins. Imports of dried fruits, mostly dates and figs, probably will be about the same as in 1952-53. Consumption of dried fruits during 1953-54 probably will be a little over 4 pounds per capita, close to the rate of the past few years.

Vegetables

Supplies of potatoes and sweetpotatoes for marketing this fall and winter are somewhat larger than a year earlier, while those of fresh and processed vegetables are about as large. Retail prices of potatoes and sweetpotatoes during this period will likely average lower than in late 1952 and early 1953, particularly in the case of potatoes. With the demand for fresh and processed vegetables likely to continue strong in the next several months, retail prices for these commodities are expected to average close to those of a year earlier.

Crop indications for the commercial fresh vegetables to be harvested this fall point to supplies nearly as large as a year earlier. A substantially larger tonnage of snap beans, cabbage, Brussels sprouts, sweet corn, and green peas than in fall 1952 is in prospect this year. The increase for these commodities is expected to about offset the reductions in prospect for broccoli, carrots, cauliflower, celery, cucumbers, eggplant, lettuce, green peppers, spinach, and tomatoes. In addition to the fall harvested fresh vegetables, market supplies of onions from the late summer crop will be much larger in the next several months than they were a year earlier.

If growing conditions are normal, commercial production of fresh vegetables next year probably will be about as large as in 1953, even though prices received by farmers this year have been somewhat lower than in 1952. The trends in produc tion by items are expected to continue to conform in general to trends in consumption. Particularly since the end of World War II the consumption of commercially grown fresh green peas, green lima beans, and spinach has been distinctly downward, being offset in whole or part by increased consumption of these vegetables in the processed forms. The trend has also been downward for fresh cabbage, but upward for lettuce.

Total supplies of canned vegetables until about mid-1954 probably will be about the same as a year earlier. The 1953 pack of canned vegetables is not expected to reach the volume of 1952. But this decline will in large part be offset by the larger carryover stocks this year than last and by the likelihood of some decline in military procurement. The general level of retail prices of canned vegetables during the remainder of the current marketing year is expected to average about the same as a year earlier. This would tend to encourage a relatively large pack again next summer.

The large and seasonally increasing holdings of frozen vegetables in commercial cold storage indicate that this year's pack may exceed the record output of 896 million pounds in 1952. The new pack plus stocks carried over from last year's production are expected to be sufficiently large to permit civilians to consume more frozen vegetables per person next year than the record rate reached this year. With demand strong and supplies likely to be large, retail prices of frozen vegetables during the coming months probably will average about the same as in the 1952-53 marketing year.

Large supplies of potatoes are available for marketing this fall and winter, and at retail prices lower than a year earlier. The late season potato crop, which will comprise the bulk of market supplies from this fall until well into 1954, is only 4 percent larger than last year's crop, according to October 1 indications. However, output in the Eastern and Central States is much larger than in 1952 and that in the Western States, smaller. Despite this, supplies of potatoes will be generally plentiful throughout the nation.

Another large crop of potatoes is likely next year, if the weather is normal. Although the drop in prices to farmers from 1952 to 1953 may lead some farmers to reduce their potato acreage next year, some land may be diverted from controlled crops to potatoes in 1954. Also, the upward trend in potato yield per acre may continue, tending to offset any cuts in acreage.

With supplies of sweetpotatoes indicated to be much larger than the unusually small supply of a year earlier and lower priced at retail, civilian consumption per person in 1953-54 is expected to be above the very low rates of the two preceding years. Sweetpotato production this year is currently estimated at 33.7 million bushels, about 19 percent above that of last year.

Production of sweetpotatoes in 1954 will be influenced in part by the prices received by farmers for the current year's crop. As in the case of potatoes, some shift in acreage from controlled crops to sweetpotatoes is likely next year.

The crops of dry edible beans and peas are larger this year than last, particularly in the case of the latter. However, the supply situation for these two crops will differ. Because of the substantially smaller stock carryover of dry edible beans, and the only slightly larger output, supplies in 1953-54 will be somewhat smaller and higher priced than in 1952-53. Civilian consumption of dry edible beans during the current marketing year is expected to remain at about the same rate per person as a year earlier. Exports of dry beans are expected to be lower because of higher export prices and limited supplies above domestic needs.

Dry field peas will be in much larger supply in 1953-54 than during the previous marketing year. Although carryover stocks from earlier crops are estimated to be considerably smaller than the low stocks of a year earlier, the 1953 crop is enough larger than the 1952 crop to more than offset the reduction in the carryover.

Since commercial stocks of dry peas have been at low levels for some time, the large crop will give dealers the opportunity to build up inventories moderately. Civilian consumption of dry peas in 1953-54 is expected to be close to the rate of a year earlier, or about two-thirds to three-fourths of a pound per person.

Cereal Food Products

Supplies of cereal food products will continue plentiful in 1954. Civilian consumption of these foods per person is expected to be close to the rate of this year. With marketing charges likely to remain relatively stable, retail prices of most of the foods made from grains probably will average at least as high as in 1953.

Total production of grains in 1953 will be a little smaller than last year, according to indications as of October 1, with declines in wheat, corn, and oats more than offsetting increases in barley, rye, and rice. Despite this decline, supplies available for distribution during 1953-54 will be larger than a year earlier because of the very heavy carryover of grain from previous crops.

Wheat production this year, totaling 1,163 million bushels, is the fourth largest of record. However, because the carryover on July 1 was much larger than a year earlier, wheat supplies in 1953-54 will be the largest on record. Available supplies are large enough to meet domestic food, feed and seed needs, supply about 250 million bushels for export, and still leave a carryover of about 775 million bushels at the end of the current marketing year next July 1. A carryover stock of this size will be more than a third larger than a year earlier and the largest in our history, exceeding by over 20 percent the previous record of 631 million bushels reached in 1951.

Domestic supplies of rye in 1953-54, estimated at 23.8 million bushels, are slightly larger than in 1952-53, but the third smallest in 78 years of record. However, since only a relatively small part of the total supplies is used as food, civilian per capita consumption of food products made from rye probably will be at the rate of recent years. Sufficient rye will also be available to meet anticipated domestic needs for feed, seed and other nonfood purposes.

The 1953 rice crop of 3,380 million pounds (milled equivalent, excluding brewers' rice) sets a new record in size, exceeding the previous record set last year by almost 5 percent and substantially larger than the average of the 1942-51 crops. Civilian consumption of rice per capita in 1953-54 is expected to continue close to last year's rate, and exports will again be large. The current world market situation is such that the foreign demand for United States rice may be large enough to prevent carryover stocks at the end of the 1953-54 marketing year from being much different from those at the beginning of the year.

A near-record supply of good quality corn is available for utilization in 1953-54. Although this year's crop is not quite as large as that in 1952, according to October 1 indications, the carryover stocks are enough larger than a year earlier to more than offset the reduction in output. Thus, there is enough corn to meet all anticipated domestic food and nonfood needs and exports, and to provide for a record carryover at the end of the current marketing year. Civilian per capita consumption of corn meal may be a little lower than in 1952-53, continuing the downward trend of recent years, but the consumption rates of the other food products made from corn are expected to be about the same as a year earlier.

The domestic supply of both barley and oats is somewhat smaller this year than in 1952-53, but each will be adequate to meet expected needs for food, feed, and seed. Food use of both barley and oats is relatively small, amounting to less than 3 percent of the corresponding annual crops in recent years.

Sugar

Civilian consumption of sugar per person in 1953 is expected to be almost the same as the 96 pounds (refined basis) of last year. The marketing quota this year, recently increased to 8, 100 thousand tons (raw value), is 135 thousand tons larger than marketings under the final quota for 1952. Last year, however, marketings were supplemented by the drawing down of stocks held by industrial consumers and secondary distributors.

The domestic demand for sugar has been good again this year. Through September, sugar marketings by primary distributors totaled 6,445 thousand tons, almost 128 thousand tons larger than during the same period last year. According to reports of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the retail price of refined sugar in urban areas through August was relatively stable this year, averaging about 3 percent higher than a year earlier. The retail price of a 5-pound package of sugar in August was 53.0 cents, compared with 52.3 cents in August 1952. Little or no change in the retail price of sugar appears likely for the remainder of the year.

World supplies of sugar this year are again large. World production in 1952-53 was more than 6 percent smaller than a year earlier, but carryover stocks were larger than in 1951-52. Current indications point to a somewhat larger output of sugar in 1953-54 than in the preceding marketing year. Cuba, the world's largest producer of sugar, probably will continue restrictions on production in 1953-54. However, production in other parts of the world, especially in Europe, will be larger in 1953-54 than a year earlier.

The total supply of sugar available to domestic consumers in 1954 will depend on the total marketing quota that will be established for the year. The quota will be set by the Secretary of Agriculture in accordance with the provisions of the Sugar Act of 1948 as amended, taking into account sugar distribution during the year ending October 31, 1953, the inventory level in prospect at the end of calendar year 1953, estimated changes in population and demand between this year and 1954, and the sugar price level which will not be excessive to consumers and which will fairly and equitably maintain and protect the domestic sugar industry. The quota for 1954 must be announced by the Secretary before December 31, 1953.

## WORLD FOOD SITUATION 1/

World supplies of essential foods in the 1953-54 consumption year will be about as large or slightly larger than the record supplies of 1952-53, according to crop conditions early in the season. Crop conditions in most parts of the world have been favorable for food production

1/ Prepared by the Foreign Agricultural Service.

and, although output of some crops--particularly breadgrains and some deciduous fruits--may be below that of 1952-53, carryover stocks of most staple food products are considerably larger than a year ago. As a result, per capita food supplies will be about as large as 1952-53.

The first estimate of the 1954 wheat crop of 7,025 million bushels is 265 million bushels below last year's record crop. However, with July 1 stocks of wheat in principal export markets nearly 600 million bushels larger than on the same date in 1952, a record wheat supply is available for the current consumption year.

The rye crop of 1,570 million bushels is 30 million bushels below last year, but, as indicated for wheat, this decline is also offset by a 50 million bushel increase of carryover stocks in the exporting countries.

Acreage and production of the 1952-53 rice crop reached record levels and additional acreage increases are planned for the 1953-54 crop in several of the major producing areas. Rice available for foreign trade, however, still continues to be substantially below prewar since acreage and production increases have not kept pace with the increase in the rice consuming population. Consequently, there will be an active demand for all rice available for export during the coming year.

Total supplies of fats and oils during 1953-54 are about as large as a year earlier and sufficient to maintain world consumption at the 1952-53 per capita rate. However, exportable supplies outside of the dollar area may be smaller than a year earlier. If consumption in the importing countries is to be upheld, more fats and oils probably will have to come from the United States where stocks have increased during the past year.

The world sugar crop in 1953-54 is expected to be larger than in 1952-53 despite continued restrictions on production in Cuba but may not equal the record output in 1951. The new International Sugar Agreement between major exporters and importers scheduled to go into effect on January 1, 1954 for a period of five years, will regulate the international trade in sugar on the free market through a system of export and import quotas designed to keep prices within the range of $3.25 to $4.35 per 100 pounds, FAS Cuba. The aim of this Agreement is to stabilize world sugar production and trade, stimulate consumption at reasonable prices, and at the same time, enable producers in tropical areas to pay a reasonable wage to labor.

Deciduous fruit production in 1953-54 will be lower than a year earlier as crops in Europe are sharply below the unusually large crops of 1952. Citrus production, however, is expected to be above the record crops of last year. Demand for citrus has continued strong, however, and little difficulty is expected by exporting producers in marketing this year's large crop, except possibly grapefruit.

World production of haricot beans, peas, lentils and chickpeas, in total, has been declining since 1949, and in 1952 was below the pre-war average. The size of the current crop in the Far East, the principal

producing area, is still unknown, but the crops in most of Europe and in the United States are expected to be slightly larger than a year earlier. Drought in Southern Europe has again reduced production prospects there. U. S. trade in beans during 1953-54 may be stimulated by the drought in Mexico where it is estimated that more than one million bags will again need to be imported to meet normal requirements. In 1952, when supplies were also small, 1,244,000 bags were imported.

Production of most livestock products is continuing to expand in response to high consumer demand. World hog slaughter has declined somewhat during 1953 and may continue at lower levels until the fall of 1954, but cattle and sheep numbers are still increasing in nearly all parts of the world. Larger supplies of beef and mutton and lamb are maintaining the upward trend in total meat supplies. Dairy production has also continued to increase in most countries as a result of generally favorable world-wide pasture conditions. Supplies of feedgrains for the coming feeding season are above 1952-53, mainly because of the larger carryover supplies in surplus producing areas, and if price relationships continue favorable, a continued high output of livestock products during the 1953-54 feeding season is probable.

In Canada and the United States, food production continued at high levels despite some decline in wheat production. In both countries, the disposal of the large surpluses of exportable food products, which have accumulated in the past 2 years, is a major trade problem. Western Europe, the major outlet for these surplus farm products, has had another unusually favorable season with several countries reporting record wheat crops and large supplies of other food products. Industrial activity continues at high levels but the large domestic food supplies will reduce the need for imports. Livestock production, however, has continued to expand, which will increase the need for imported feed supplies. The improved economic situation in the United Kingdom has been accompanied by the permission for mills to make white flour. With domestic meat production increasing rapidly, there is also a possibility that meats may be derationed in the United Kingdom within the coming year. Increasing production of crops andlivestock products in Australia and New Zealand is enabling the United Kingdom to obtain a greater portion of its food supply from within the sterling area.

Agricultural production in Eastern European countries continues below prewar. Some increase in small grains is expected, except in the Soviet Union, because of more favorable weather conditions, but the outlook for the important corn crop appears to be poor in several Danubian countries. Exports of farm products from this region are likely to continue moderate; any marked increase in exports over those of previous years is unlikely.

Conditions were generally favorable in all Middle Eastern countries, except in Southern Jordan and Israel, and several countries in this area have reported record crops of the major cereals. In Turkey, production is severely taxing existing transport and export facilities. As a result, surpluses may accumulate both in the interior and in the principal markets. Southern Jordan appears to be the only area with an acute food shortage but a recent United States grant of 10,000 tons of wheat to this area should relieve the situation.

The Far East has become a significant importer of food products in the postwar period and conditions for the 1953-54 season vary widely from country to country. In India, the progress which has been made in the program to expand food production together with favorable weather may reduce import requirements to the lowest level in several years. Korea is also harvesting above-average crops but will probably need to import some grains because of the difficulties of distributing existing supplies through the disrupted transportation and marketing facilities.

Production of most food crops in Indonesia during the current season is larger than last year due to more favorable weather conditions and expanded acreage. Grain imports will be about half of last year and sugar exports probably will be considerably larger. The Philippines are expecting a record rice crop, about 15 percent above last year's crop. If realized, rice supplies will be sufficient for domestic requirements during 1953-54 and a small amount of exports may be possible. Philippine sugar production has now expanded to a level of about 20 percent above prewar.

Data on 1953-54 rice production in the important surplus producing area of Burma, Thailand and French Indochina are not yet available, but production in these countries in the last 3 years has been unusually stable and there are no early indications of marked changes in the current season. Because of drought and continued shortage of water, Pakistan's 1953 wheat harvest was only two-thirds of average and Pakistan was forced to request a million long tons of wheat from the United States. A grant of 700,000 tons has been made and an option given on a loan to purchase up to 300,000 tons. Early returns from China also indicate smaller wheat and rice crops in that area and the overall outlook for crops in Japan indicates that major food crops will be 6 to 10 percent below the record level of 1952 because of adverse weather conditions.

Food supplies in Latin America for 1952-53 were above 1951-52 as the larger crops harvested in Argentina more than offset the decline in sugar production in Cuba. The large Argentine wheat crop is enabling her to supply normal exports to other Latin American countries and is reducing the wheat imports by these countries from the United States and Canada. During the early part of the 1953-54 season, crop conditions have again been good in Argentina and she is to supply most of the wheat requirements of Brazil, Chile and other neighboring Latin American countries in 1954. Business recession in Mexico and Cuba may retard any increase in their food imports in the year ahead. Cuba is expected to limit its 1953-54 sugar production again to about the same level as last year in order to keep its supplies near the quota under the new sugar agreement. The drought in Mexico seriously reduced the corn and bean crops, so that additional imports will be needed, but this loss was offset to some extent by an excellent wheat harvest.

## NOTES ON REVISION OF FOOD INDEXES

Tables 1 and 2 of this publication contain three revised indexes: volume of farm marketing and home consumption, supply-utilization of agricultural food products, and civilian per capita food consumption.

Although complete descriptions of these indexes and their long-time series are included in Agriculture Handbook No. 62 "Consumption of Food in the United States, 1909-52," now in press, notes concerning the revisions are given here for convenience. The most noticeable change in each index is the shift in the base period from 1935-39 to 1947-49. The index of the volume of farm marketings and home consumption replaces the index of the volume of agricultural production for sale and farm home consumption. The principal difference between the two indexes is that the new index takes into consideration crops sold or consumed in the given calendar year regardless of when produced. The crop segment of the former index was on a marketing year basis, beginning in the year indicated. Output of livestock products in both the old and the new indexes is on a calendar year basis. Accordingly, the new index measures production at the time the farm products enter into the marketing system or are consumed in the farm household. This concept was adopted in order better to match the data on consumption.

Other differences between the two indexes are the use of 1947-49 price weights for the index of farm marketings and home consumption for years since 1939 and an expansion of commodity coverage. The value aggregates for 1910-39 which utilized 1935-39 price weights were spliced to the levels of those derived with 1947-49 prices using the relationships indicated by overlapped calculations for 1940. The major change in coverage of food products is the inclusion of all truck crops both for sale and farm home consumption, instead of the production in major commercial areas only.

Two difficulties in calculation of an index of food output could not be overcome in the new index. One was some double-counting because of inter-farm sales. The other was the problem of food and nonfood uses of some commodities. The food segment of the new index includes all wheat, rye, rice, and peanuts, but excludes corn, oats, barley, cottonseed, and soybeans, despite some nonfood uses of the first group and some food uses of the latter group of commodities.

Comparison of the food sub-indexes of the new index of farm marketings and home consumption and the former index of agricultural production for sale and farm home consumption reveals no differences in level or trend between the two indexes, but some minor differences in year-to-year changes.

A revised and more comprehensive index of supply-utilization of agricultural products with food uses has been developed to replace the much less refined index of total food utilization. Major revisions in concept and in scope were made to obtain a better measure of the changing structure of the supply and utilization of agricultural products. The new index distributes the total supply of all farm products having food uses, not just the quantities marketed for food. It forms the major part of the index of supply-utilization of all farm products, including cotton, tobacco, and wool, now being developed.

The annual flow of farm products from producers, importers, and out of stocks into marketing channels is measured in terms of 1947-49 farm prices times changing quantities. Thus the index totals individual commodities on

the basis of their value relationships rather than their physical weights. Other than the change in base period, the major differences between the new index and the one previously used are the expansion in commodity coverage, adjustments for food and nonfood uses at successive stages of distribution, and greater consistency in combining data on processed and unprocessed items from raw farm products. The revised procedure traces the flow of agricultural commodities to final utilization, allocating to each category its share of the total farm value of the raw product. This share for joint products is determined according to value relationships derived from primary market prices and quantities of processed commodities.

Although the data in table 2 are entirely different from those previously carried, analysis of the percentages in the food categories of the new and the replaced indexes indicates no changes in trend or general level but a few minor differences for particular years. The proportional distribution of the total amount of farm products used for food is basically unchanged from the old index to the new one, but nonfood use is now indicated rather than excluded. The major part of the nonfood category is the use of grain, oilseeds, and milk for feeding livestock.

This index provides an overall measure of the changing economic importance of foreign trade, military procurement, Department of Agriculture transactions, and nonfood use to our agricultural economy as well as domestic civilian food utilization. A supplemental bulletin with value aggregates by commodity groups, 1924 to date, is expected to be issued to facilitate analysis of the demand for farm products as soon as the coverage of the index can be extended to farm products with only nonfood uses, such as cotton, tobacco, and shorn wool.

The principal revisions in the calculation of the index of civilian per capita food consumption, other than the change to 1947-49 price weights, are the allowance for higher prices of sugar and flour in their processed forms and the separate pricing of additional items. Some changes in the basic estimates of per capita consumption, particularly for home-produced food and fluid milk, have largely offset the effects of the revisions in methodology. Consequently, when the revised index is compared with the unrevised series, shifted to 1947-49 base, there is practically no change in level nor trend and, again, only minor differences in year-to-year relationships. With its refinements in price weighting, the revised index measures to some extent changes in quality of food consumed per person as well as changes in poundages, because it takes account of shifts from lower-priced to high-priced food commodities and to higher-priced forms in which individual items may be marketed. Analysis of this index and of per capita food utilization index which was derived from the total civilian food category of the supply-utilization index (to be published in the Agriculture Handbook No. 62, "Consumption of Food in the United States, 1909-52") indicated that the two indexes are very close in level and trend despite the fact that one uses retail prices as weights and the other farm prices.

Table 5.- Production of major food commodities, calendar years, 1935-39 and 1947-49 averages, 1951, 1952, and preliminary estimates for 1953, with percentage comparisons 1/

| Commodity | Unit | Average 1935-39 | Average 1947-49 | 1951 | 1952 | 1953 Preliminary 2/ | 1953 as a percentage of 1935-39 | 1953 as a percentage of 1947-49 | 1953 as a percentage of 1952 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Meats (carcass weight) | | | | | | | | | |
| Beef | Mil. lb. | 6,937 | 9,649 | 8,843 | 9,667 | 12,300 | 177 | 127 | 127 |
| Veal | Mil. lb. | 1,038 | 1,454 | 1,061 | 1,173 | 1,535 | 148 | 106 | 131 |
| Lamb and mutton | Mil. lb. | 870 | 716 | 521 | 648 | 715 | 82 | 100 | 110 |
| Pork (excluding lard) | Mil. lb. | 7,337 | 10,281 | 11,483 | 11,547 | 10,150 | 138 | 99 | 88 |
| Total meats | Mil. lb. | 16,182 | 22,100 | 21,908 | 23,035 | 24,700 | 153 | 112 | 107 |
| Fish (edible weight) | | | | | | | | | |
| Fresh and frozen | Mil. lb. | 615 | 706 | 770 | 730 | 3/ | --- | --- | --- |
| Canned 4/ | Mil. lb. | 337 | 484 | 485 | 422 | 3/ | --- | --- | --- |
| Cured | Mil. lb. | 74 | 70 | 68 | 68 | 3/ | --- | --- | --- |
| Total fish | Mil. lb. | 1,026 | 1,260 | 1,323 | 1,220 | 1,185 | 115 | 94 | 97 |
| Poultry and eggs | | | | | | | | | |
| Eggs | Mil.doz. | 3,335 | 5,086 | 5,433 | 5,593 | 5,635 | 169 | 111 | 101 |
| Chicken (eviscerated) | Mil. lb. | 1,730 | 2,753 | 3,563 | 3,637 | 3,750 | 217 | 136 | 103 |
| Turkey (eviscerated) | Mil. lb. | 288 | 491 | 692 | 762 | 676 | 235 | 138 | 89 |
| Dairy products | | | | | | | | | |
| Total milk 5/ | Bil. lb. | 105.9 | 116.3 | 115.3 | 115.5 | 118.8 | 112 | 102 | 103 |
| Cheese 6/ | Mil. lb. | 673 | 1,160 | 1,161 | 1,170 | 1,290 | 192 | 111 | 110 |
| Condensed and evaporated milk | Mil. lb. | 2,225 | 3,497 | 3,228 | 3,164 | 3,012 | 135 | 86 | 95 |
| Ice cream (product weight) | Mil. lb. | 1,279 | 2,757 | 2,718 | 2,840 | 2,760 | 216 | 100 | 97 |
| Fats and oils | | | | | | | | | |
| Butter, farm and factory (actual weight) | Mil. lb. | 2,195 | 1,611 | 1,452 | 1,417 | 1,590 | 72 | 99 | 112 |
| Lard 7/ | Mil. lb. | 1,630 | 2,419 | 2,864 | 2,886 | 2,450 | 150 | 101 | 85 |
| Margarine (actual weight) | Mil. lb. | 372 | 839 | 1,041 | 1,286 | 1,329 | 357 | 158 | 103 |
| Shortening | Mil. lb. | 1,529 | 1,434 | 1,403 | 1,611 | 1,720 | 112 | 120 | 107 |
| Other edible fats and oils 8/ | Mil. lb. | 2,157 | 3,912 | 4,718 | 4,951 | 4,929 | 229 | 126 | 100 |
| Total fats and oils (fat content) 9/ | Mil. lb. | 5,554 | 7,627 | 8,751 | 8,978 | 8,659 | 156 | 114 | 96 |
| Fruits | | | | | | | | | |
| Fresh | | | | | | | | | |
| Citrus | Mil. lb. | 6,875 | 8,782 | 7,634 | 7,729 | 7,808 | 114 | 89 | 101 |
| Apples (commercial) | Mil. lb. | 4,385 | 3,791 | 3,538 | 3,290 | 3,450 | 79 | 91 | 105 |
| Other (excluding melons) | Mil. lb. | 4,648 | 4,508 | 4,062 | 4,297 | 4,300 | 93 | 95 | 100 |
| Processed | | | | | | | | | |
| Canned fruit | Mil. lb. | 1,705 | 2,591 | 3,111 | 2,779 | 2,900 | 170 | 112 | 104 |
| Canned fruit juices | Mil. lb. | 333 | 2,239 | 2,424 | 1,931 | 1,800 | 541 | 80 | 93 |
| Frozen (including juices) | Mil. lb. | 106 | 416 | 802 | 1,008 | 1,100 | 1,038 | 264 | 109 |
| Dried | Mil. lb. | 1,118 | 1,008 | 947 | 950 | 882 | 79 | 88 | 93 |
| Vegetables | | | | | | | | | |
| Fresh, total commercial 10/ | Mil. lb. | 18,428 | 22,781 | 22,968 | 23,191 | 24,200 | 131 | 106 | 104 |
| Canned | Mil. lb. | 4,030 | 6,064 | 7,806 | 7,317 | 6,915 | 172 | 114 | 95 |
| Frozen | Mil. lb. | 11/78 | 452 | 770 | 896 | 975 | 1,250 | 216 | 109 |
| Potatoes | Mil. bu. | 355 | 414 | 320 | 348 | 374 | 105 | 90 | 107 |
| Sweetpotatoes | Mil. bu. | 68 | 46 | 29 | 28 | 34 | 50 | 74 | 121 |
| Dry edible beans 12/ | Mil. lb. | 1,360 | 1,854 | 1,588 | 1,559 | 1,650 | 121 | 89 | 106 |
| Dry field peas 12/ | Mil. lb. | 229 | 401 | 352 | 238 | 304 | 133 | 76 | 128 |
| Canned baby foods | Mil. lb. | 37 | 469 | 503 | 562 | 660 | 1,784 | 141 | 117 |
| Sugar, raw basis | 1,000 sh. tons | 1,948 | 2,065 | 2,042 | 2,102 | 2,280 | 117 | 110 | 108 |
| Grains | | | | | | | | | |
| Wheat | Mil. bu. | 759 | 1,251 | 981 | 1,291 | 1,163 | 153 | 93 | 90 |
| Rye | Mil. bu. | 44.9 | 23.1 | 21.3 | 15.9 | 17.5 | 39 | 76 | 110 |
| Rice, milled | Mil. lb. | 1,340 | 2,330 | 2,522 | 3,101 | 3,292 | 246 | 141 | 106 |
| Corn, grain only | Mil. bu. | 2,050 | 2,788 | 2,617 | 3,002 | 2,860 | 140 | 103 | 95 |
| Oats | Mil. bu. | 1,045 | 1,294 | 1,321 | 1,268 | 1,205 | 115 | 93 | 95 |
| Barley | Mil. bu. | 239 | 279 | 254 | 227 | 237 | 99 | 85 | 104 |
| Peanuts, farmers' stock basis | Mil. lb. | 1,230 | 2,128 | 1,676 | 1,354 | 1,394 | 113 | 66 | 103 |

1/ Calendar year basis except for fresh citrus fruit for which the season begins in the fall of the previous year; dried fruits which are on a pack-year basis; rice on a marketing year. 2/ Preliminary estimates based on trends in livestock numbers, current or prospective rates of output, average or probable acreages and yields, and such other data or advance estimates as are available. These estimates are used only to indicate the general level of food supplies for domestic consumption for 1953, but they are based on such official estimates of production as are available at this time. Revisions will of course be made from time to time throughout the year as official indications or estimates are issued through the Crop Reporting Service of the Department. 3/ Not available. 4/ Excludes products containing small quantities of fish such as clam chowder, etc. 5/ These estimates include farm production of milk as reported by the Crop Reporting Board in "Farm Production, Disposition, and Income from Milk, 1950-51" (April 1952) and an allowance for nonfarm production of 2.3 billion pounds in 1935-39, 1.1 in 1947-49, 0.5 in 1951, 0.4 in 1952, and 0.3 billion pounds in 1953. 6/ Excludes full skim, cottage, pot, and bakers' cheese. 7/ Includes amount used in manufactured food and nonfood products. 8/ Includes cottonseed, peanut, soybean, corn, edible olive, and oleo oils, oleo stock, oleostearine, and edible tallow later processed into margarine, shortening, cooking and salad oils, etc., and nonfood items. 9/ Includes butter, lard, and "other fats and oils." 10/ Completely revised series covers total commercial production for sale as fresh, both for shipment to distant markets and for local markets; includes quantities not harvested and use of a few minor vegetables for processing. Excludes farm-garden output for farm household use. 11/ Average 1937-39. Data prior to 1937 are not available. 12/ Cleaned basis.

Table 6.- Retail food prices 1/ and total consumer price index, United States, 1940-51 and 1952-53 by months

(Index numbers: 1947-49=100)

| Year and month | Meats 2/ | Eggs | Dairy products 3/ | Fats and oils 4/ | Cereals and bakery products | Fruits and vegetables | Sugar and sweets | Beverages | All foods 1/ | Consumer price index |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1940 | 41 | 46 | 53 | 46 | 59 | 47 | 55 | 45 | 48 | 60 |
| 1941 | 46 | 55 | 53 | 52 | 59 | 50 | 60 | 50 | 52 | 63 |
| 1942 | 54 | 67 | 65 | 66 | 64 | 64 | 72 | 60 | 61 | 70 |
| 1943 | 58 | 80 | 70 | 70 | 65 | 83 | 72 | 61 | 68 | 74 |
| 1944 | 56 | 75 | 69 | 68 | 66 | 82 | 72 | 61 | 67 | 75 |
| 1945 | 56 | 81 | 70 | 69 | 66 | 87 | 72 | 61 | 69 | 77 |
| 1946 | 69 | 83 | 86 | 84 | 76 | 89 | 81 | 68 | 79 | 83 |
| 1947 | 94 | 99 | 97 | 110 | 94 | 98 | 102 | 92 | 96 | 96 |
| 1948 | 106 | 102 | 106 | 108 | 103 | 100 | 98 | 100 | 104 | 103 |
| 1949 | 100 | 99 | 97 | 82 | 103 | 102 | 100 | 108 | 100 | 102 |
| 1950 | 105 | 85 | 96 | 80 | 104 | 98 | 102 | 153 | 101 | 103 |
| 1951 | 117 | 104 | 107 | 94 | 114 | 107 | 106 | 169 | 113 | 111 |
| 1952 | 116 | 95 | 112 | 79 | 117 | 117 | 106 | 170 | 115 | 114 |
| Jan. | 117 | 90 | 112 | 86 | 115 | 113 | 105 | 170 | 115 | 113 |
| Feb. | 117 | 82 | 113 | 84 | 116 | 110 | 105 | 170 | 113 | 112 |
| Mar. | 115 | 79 | 112 | 81 | 116 | 114 | 104 | 170 | 113 | 112 |
| Apr. | 115 | 82 | 110 | 79 | 116 | 121 | 105 | 170 | 114 | 113 |
| May | 114 | 81 | 109 | 78 | 117 | 124 | 106 | 170 | 114 | 113 |
| June | 116 | 83 | 109 | 78 | 117 | 122 | 106 | 170 | 115 | 113 |
| July | 116 | 102 | 110 | 78 | 118 | 124 | 107 | 170 | 116 | 114 |
| Aug. | 119 | 107 | 111 | 78 | 118 | 119 | 107 | 170 | 117 | 114 |
| Sept. | 119 | 109 | 112 | 78 | 117 | 112 | 108 | 170 | 115 | 114 |
| Oct. | 117 | 113 | 113 | 78 | 118 | 111 | 108 | 170 | 115 | 114 |
| Nov. | 114 | 111 | 113 | 78 | 118 | 116 | 108 | 170 | 115 | 114 |
| Dec. | 113 | 99 | 113 | 78 | 118 | 116 | 108 | 170 | 114 | 114 |
| 1953 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Jan. | 111 | 5/ | 112 | 5/ | 118 | 6/117 | 5/ | 5/ | 113 | 114 |
| Feb. | 108 | 5/ | 111 | 5/ | 118 | 6/116 | 5/ | 5/ | 111 | 113 |
| Mar. | 107 | 5/ | 110 | 5/ | 118 | 6/116 | 5/ | 5/ | 111 | 114 |
| Apr. | 107 | 5/ | 109 | 5/ | 118 | 6/115 | 5/ | 5/ | 111 | 114 |
| May | 109 | 5/ | 108 | 5/ | 118 | 6/115 | 5/ | 5/ | 112 | 114 |
| June | 111 | 5/ | 108 | 5/ | 119 | 6/122 | 5/ | 5/ | 114 | 114 |
| July | 112 | 5/ | 108 | 5/ | 119 | 6/118 | 5/ | 5/ | 114 | 115 |
| Aug. | 114 | 5/ | 109 | 5/ | 120 | 6/113 | 5/ | 5/ | 114 | 115 |

1/ Includes only price of foods consumed at home. 2/ Includes chicken and fish. 3/ Includes butter. 4/ Excludes butter. 5/ Not available. 6/ Sub-indexes for fruits and vegetables no longer reported separately.

Bureau of Labor Statistics. Indexes for commodity groups prior to 1953 adjusted to 1947-49 base from the published series on 1935-39 base. The Consumer Price Index revision, beginning 1953, has been described in the Monthly Labor Review.

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